

SHOOT! ^{45p.} SPRING SPECIAL 1979



Everton's Martin Dobson holds off Dennis Mortimer (Aston Villa).



Derek Statham (West Brom).



Phil Neal (Liverpool) clears from Paul Mariner (Ipswich).



Norwich City's Tony Powell prevents Coventry's Ian Wallace from scoring.

**SUPER SOCCER ACTION...
PHOTOS AND FEATURES**

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WORLD SOCCER AROUND THE

It's the same game . . . but it often looks different!

A SPRING SPECIAL FROM THE SHOOT TEAM. . .

This season records have been broken . . . and sensational headlines made. For example Nottingham Forest's 42 match unbeaten First Division run. . . Trevor Francis' £1 million transfer. . . Phil Parkes became the world's costliest 'keeper when he moved from Q.P.R. to West Ham. . . Malcolm Allison's controversial return to Manchester City. . . foreign stars introduced into the Football League . . . and SHOOT's even bigger lead at the top of the soccer magazine League.

To celebrate our success the SHOOT team have produced this extra-special edition. We're sure you'll find it a winner. Happy Reading. . .

David Gregory
Editor



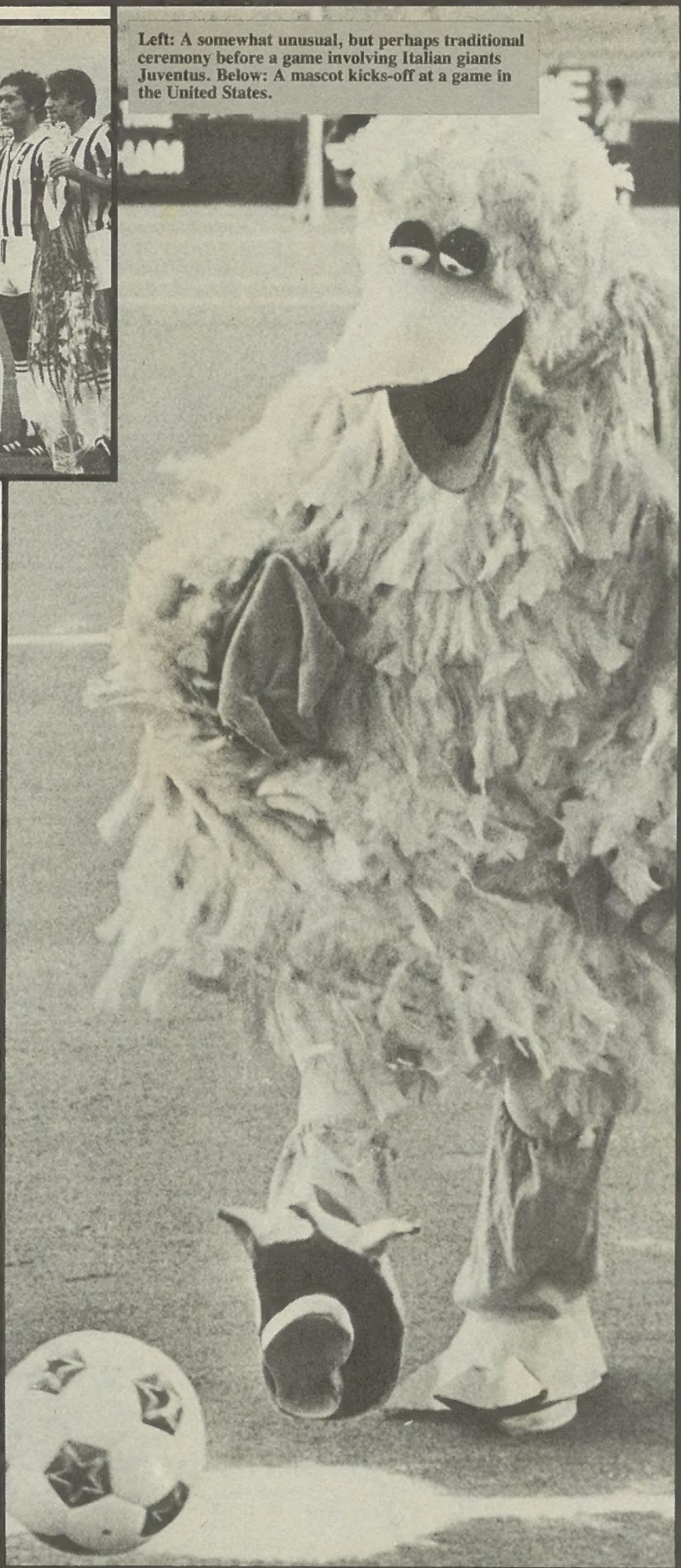
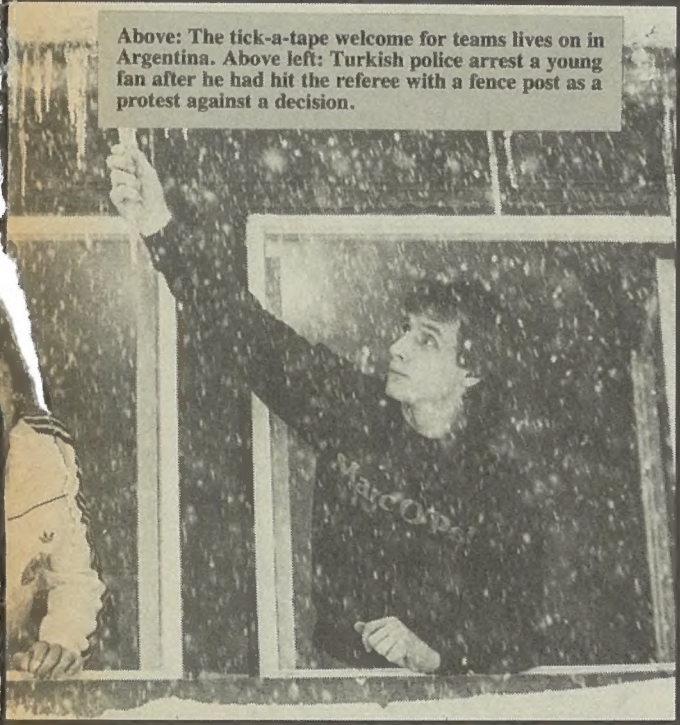
Above: Jerseys come in all sorts of colours . . . but not like the one worn by Jan Jongbloed of FC Amsterdam. Left: Beauty comes to soccer in Japan. Right: West Germany's Herbert Zimmermann and Rüdiger Abramczik have an icy reception.



Left: A somewhat unusual, but perhaps traditional ceremony before a game involving Italian giants Juventus. Below: A mascot kicks-off a game in the United States.



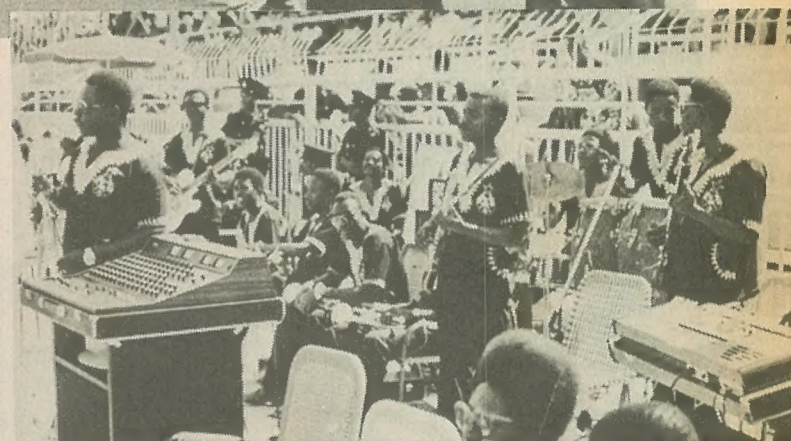
Above: The tick-a-tape welcome for teams lives on in Argentina. Above left: Turkish police arrest a young fan after he had hit the referee with a fence post as a protest against a decision.



Continued on next page



Above: A special welcome for Atlético Madrid after they had secured the Spanish Championship. Right: An African police band entertains the fans before a match in Accra. Below: Club sponsors pour hundreds of thousands of francs into French football to help the game and enable clubs to pay players realistic salaries. A lesson for us perhaps?



Left: Action from Down Under – Berti Mariani of Marconi heads towards goal in the Phillips Cup Semi-Finals against Fitzroy at the Olympic Park, Melbourne, Australia. Right: A subs bench with a difference . . . Prince Faisal of the El Helal club in Saudi Arabia takes a personal interest in his club.

THE TRANSFER THAT NEVER WAS

Bar a major upset, 1978/79 will end happily for Watford defender Steve Sims. The club are set to win promotion for the second successive year, to Division Two, and the champagne should be flowing at Vicarage Road.

As Steve sips his "bubbly", though, no doubt he will reflect on events earlier in the season ... events that almost wrecked his career.

The England Under-21 stopper was on the point of joining Derby County from Leicester City; the £250,000 transfer was announced and Steve was introduced to his new Baseball Ground team-mates.

Derby boss Tommy Docherty – an old hand at transfers! – held a Press conference and Steve was set to become a Rams player.

All that remained was the medical ... yet once again a player had to suffer the humiliation and disappointment of a move being called off on medical grounds.

The problem arose because Sims "signed" on the Friday and

and examined and the surgeon could find nothing wrong with the knee.

"From there, manager Jock Wallace, physio John McVey, and I went to London to see a Harley Street specialist. He tested the knee and said there was nothing wrong. By that time I was much happier, yet still confused. I didn't know what was going to happen.

"I'd been told by two top medical men that there was no threat to my career, yet the transfer was still very much in the balance.

"The next day, which was Wednesday, I returned to Derby and waited while they deliberated over the move. Then, Tommy Docherty told me that he was sorry, but had to take the advice of the club's experts and couldn't sign me.

"I wasn't all that shocked. I'd been prepared for it after all the messing around."

Leicester were, naturally, bitter about Derby's reaction and Derby's refusal to comment made the situation even worse.

Sims, caught up in the middle of it, was on the outside, reflecting on a move to the First Division that never was.

Secrecy

This, of course, raises the whole problem of transfers being announced prematurely. The always-eager Press make it difficult, almost impossible, at times for transfer secrecy, although clubs could still delay any "definite" announcement until everything is 100 per cent certain.

Leicester, themselves, once turned down Liverpool's John Toshack, who went on to help The Reds win more glory. And Asa Hartford's hole-in-the-heart controversy hasn't prevented the Scot from being a dynamic mid-field player.

Watford had no qualms about signing Sims. Manager Graham Taylor is building a team for Division Two and Steve is arguably the best centre-half outside the top flight.

Although Sims was ineligible for Watford's League Cup bid, he has shown his strength and power in the League, with no signs of any ill-effects.

Promotion would certainly help erase the memories of last November when Sims' future seemed very much in the balance.



Steve Sims shows his strength and power for Watford.

the examination couldn't take place until the Monday.

Sims had had a cartilage operation on a knee and apparently X-rays revealed "something was wrong."

He says: "I was at Derby for most of the day and it became obvious there was a hitch. I drove back to Leicester and couldn't help thinking the worst.

"What upset me was that people may think I wasn't fully fit."

The following day, Steve went to see the surgeon who performed the cartilage operation and he gave the player the all-clear. Sims was, again, X-rayed

While England are currently engaged in their 1980 European Championship bid, Ron Greenwood's eyes are firmly set on 1982... and the next World Cup.

Qualification, and even success, in the European competition would be a welcome bonus after eight years in the international wilderness, but reaching the World Cup Finals is Greenwood's real goal.

Of course, it's too far ahead to think seriously of 1982, although the England boss is already preparing for Spain and, so far, his team is progressing well, even though they haven't had a true test - such as away to Holland or Italy.

Assuming they maintain form and progress, some players seem certain to figure in Greenwood's World Cup plans.

However, 1982 is almost four years away... which means the players will be four years older.

Dave Watson is 32, Trevor Brooking 30, Mick Mills is 29. It's a fact you don't see 35-year-old stoppers or 33-year-old schemers making much impact at World Cup level, generally speaking.

However, Greenwood will be watching this situation closely and as he's shown already, he isn't afraid to introduce youngsters into his team.

One of the biggest "headaches" for Greenwood has been the choice of goalkeeper: Ray Clemence or Peter Shilton. Surely no other country has two such top-class goalkeepers available, with just a hair's breadth between them?

Clemence has been the first-choice, although no doubt it

embarrasses Greenwood just a little to have a 'keeper of Shilton's class on the subs' bench.

The Liverpool star is now 30, Shilton is 29. By the time the '82 Finals come round, Clemence will be 33, Shilton 32. In skill, and age, there is little between them.

Goalkeepers, they say, have longer careers than outfield players and when you look at some of the over-30 goalies still doing well, this is true.

Yet in the last World Cup, those two stalwarts, Sepp Maier and Dino Zoff, were both found wanting at crucial times.

The Dutch long-range shooting had the goalkeepers groping thin air and while Zoff, certainly, had done well earlier on, he was beaten by three long distance shots later on and they



Left: Peter Shilton... little to choose between him and Ray Clemence. Right: Jim Montgomery... a great 'keeper but too old to figure in England's plans.

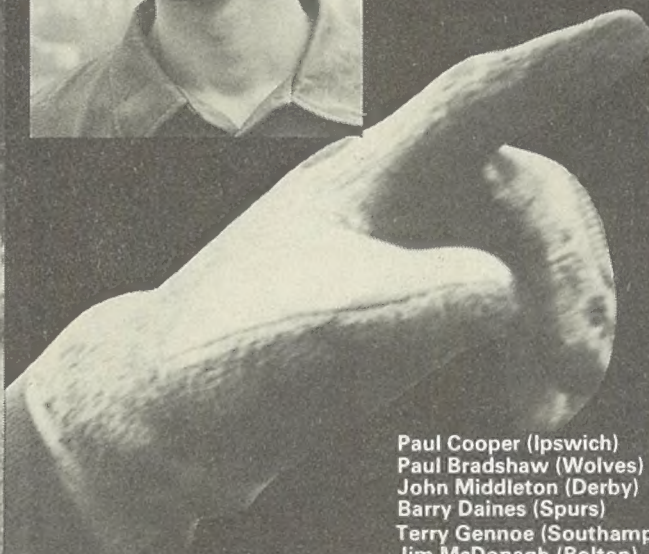
Is England's IN A



Right: Joe Corrigan would be a first-choice in many other countries.



Far left: Ray Clemence on top for England. But who will follow him? Left: Mervyn Day looked set for a fine future, but has so far failed to live up to his promise.



goalkeeping situation BAD WAY?



cost Italy dearly.

Maier is still in goal for Germany, although this surely means the supply of top-class young German 'keepers is slowing down.

And is this so in England, too? The Under-21 goalkeeper has been West Ham's £565,000 signing from Q.P.R., Phil Parkes, aged 28! He plays as one of the over-age players, of course, but surely, the ideal situation in such a specialised position is to groom a youngster?

The idea of having a couple of over-age players is a good one; an old-hand at the back, plus one in midfield can give the younger players that vital bit of experience to help bring them on.

But in goal? Manchester City's Joe Corrigan is 30 - a fine 'keeper who, in other countries, would be first-choice. Joe, too, has played for the Under-21's.

No disrespect to Parkes or Corrigan, but surely Greenwood

should be "bleeding" a young goalkeeper, ready to follow in the footsteps of Clemence and Shilton.

The problem is - who? Derby's John Middleton and Paul Bradshaw of Wolves have both kept goal for the Under-21's, yet neither has progressed as hoped and, although good club goalies, probably won't make top international class.

Go through the First Division, and the top clubs of Division Two, and you'll see that all the best goalkeepers are old experienced, depending how you look at it.

Many 'keepers are "foreign", which restricts Greenwood's choice. The English goalkeepers are:

Tony Godden (West Brom)
Les Sealey (Coventry)
Jimmy Rimmer (Aston Villa)
Jimmy Montgomery (Birmingham)
Kevin Keelan (Norwich)

Paul Cooper (Ipswich)
Paul Bradshaw (Wolves)
John Middleton (Derby)
Barry Daines (Spurs)
Terry Gennoe (Southampton)
Jim McDonagh (Bolton)
Gary Bailey (Man. Utd.).

Down in Division Two, Mark Wallington has problems with Leicester, West Ham's Mervyn Day plays for the reserves these days after being tipped for the top... could the supply of England goalkeepers *really* be slowing down?

Look at the list. Several 'keepers can be discounted for their age: Montgomery and Keelan. Others, while consistent performers, are hardly going to take over from Shilton or Clemence.

Godden and Sealey show potential, but overall, the picture is not too healthy.

Being optimistic, goalkeepers often don't show their best form until their mid-20's, although both Liverpool and Forest stars have been at the top since they were relatively young.

Luckily for Greenwood, he should still have the dynamic duo neck-and-neck by the time the next World Cup comes around.

Even so, he must be just a little disappointed that he's almost forced to play a 29- or 30-year-old goalkeeper in his Under-21 side.

England fans have pompously boasted they have the best goalkeepers in the world. England have had, and still have, a few world-class 'keepers, but that boast is probably exaggerated.

Greenwood will be hoping that another Ray Clemence is at present finding his feet at Scunthorpe or somewhere else.



FRANK WORTHINGTON
Bolton Wanderers



Left: Nottingham Forest skipper John McGovern and his wife Ann, pose with their Lowry "Going To The Match" painting. Right: Birmingham's Argentinian star Alberto Tarantini tries this vintage Rolls-Royce for size.



OFF THE PARK POSES



Above: Away from the problems and pressures of managing West Bromwich Albion, Ron Atkinson (also featured on pages 12-13) relaxes at his luxurious home. Right: Top mops . . . BBC newscaster Angela Rippon and England 'keeper Peter Shilton.



the GOOD and BAD

GARY OWEN –
Manchester City

'SKIPPERING THE UNDER-21's'

UNDOUBTEDLY being selected to captain the England Under-21's. It was a great honour and privilege when manager Dave Sexton told me I would captain the side against Denmark.

Another highlight for me this season was when I was chosen for the England B team against Czechoslovakia when we won 1-0.

My form this season has improved a lot since Malcolm Allison arrived from Plymouth.

He encourages me to push forward more and get into scoring positions.

A big plus for football this term must be the fall of violence. The supporters seem to get behind the team more these days rather than being involved in a fight on the terraces.

Although, in all fairness, we have little trouble at Maine Road but it seems to be dying on away grounds, thank goodness.

'THE £1 MILLION POUND TRANSFER WILL HARM THE GAME'

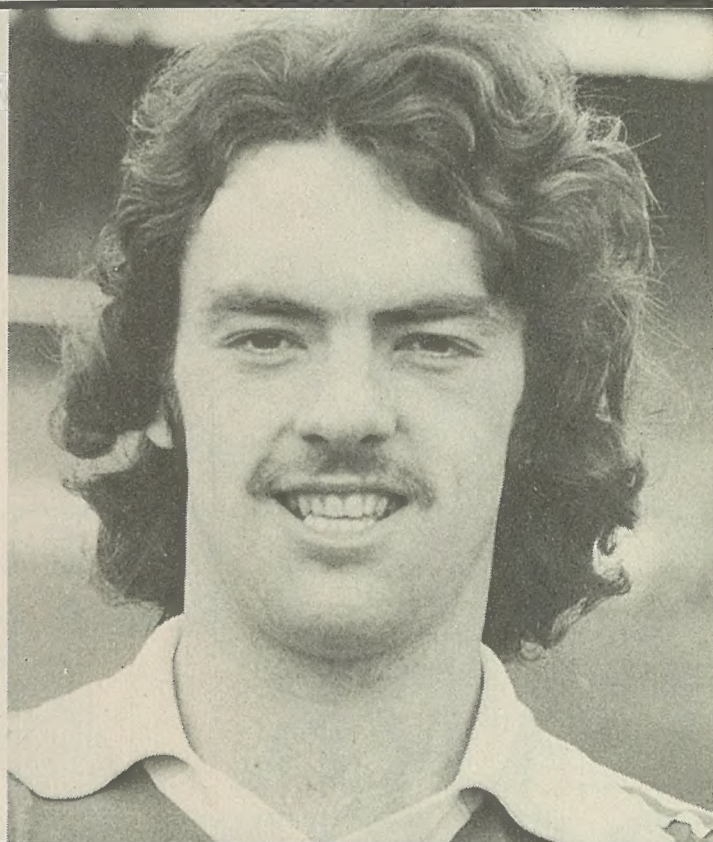
OUR League form has been a very big disappointment for everyone concerned at Maine Road. It has been a mystery. We have failed to get consistency into our play.

It sounds corny but we have been hit hard with injuries and it's very difficult to play to a pattern when there are so many players out injured.

The £1 million transfer of Trevor Francis can only harm our game.

The transfer fees have gone through the ceiling and but for a handful of clubs, like ourselves, Manchester United, Liverpool, Everton and Arsenal, many clubs will have no chance of competing for £500,000-plus players.

JOHN WARK –
Ipswich Town



'OUR FINE EUROPEAN RUN'

THE highlight of this season for me must also rank as a big disappointment as well.

I was selected for the full Scotland squad for the European Championship game against Belgium at Hampden Park.

The party met up and on the Monday before the game, I was told that because Nottingham Forest's Archie Gemmill had dropped out, I would be in the side.

But before I could get too excited the match was postponed because of the weather.

My personal form has improved since Brian Talbot moved to Arsenal. With all respect to Brian, I was playing out of position but since he moved I have reverted to my old position of the centre of midfield.

Another good mark against the club is our fine run in the Cup-Winners' Cup.

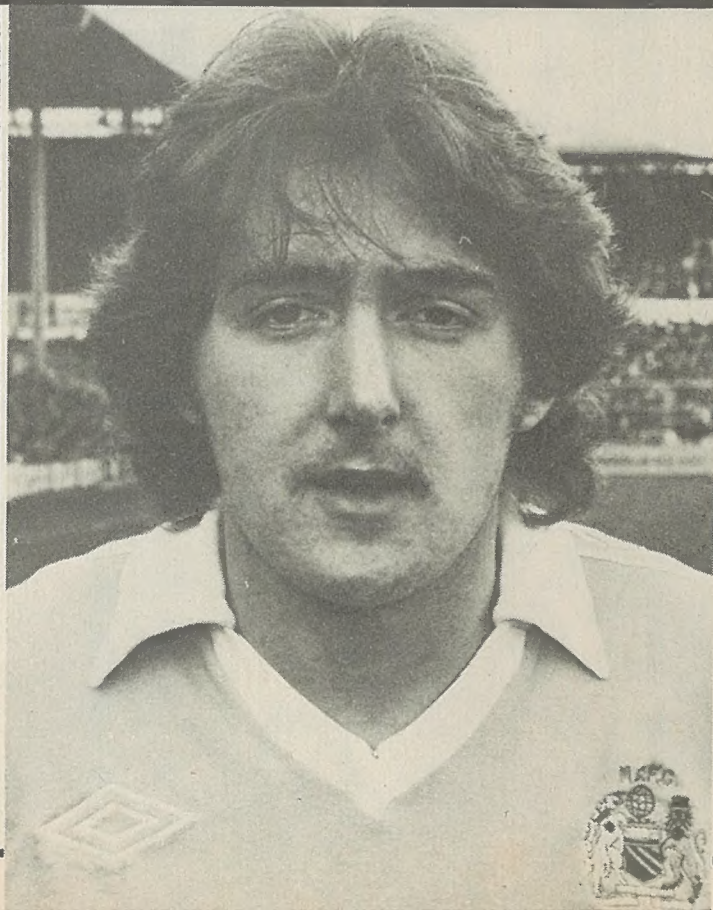
'REFEREES ARE FAR TOO INCONSISTENT'

I AGREE with Gary Owen regarding the transfer market since the sale of Francis. It's a bad thing and will encourage many up and coming youngsters to seek transfers because of the inflated prices as they will receive a lot more in their five per cent of the fee.

Another minus is that our referees are far too inconsistent in their interpretations of the Laws.

Some officials are too easy with booking and sending-off players, whilst others will have a severe word in the ear of the culprit and if repeated will then show the yellow card.

Having said that, after a few seasons in European soccer, I still think the referees in the Football League are far superior to those in Europe.



of 1978~79

Four stars talk about the highlights and disappointments of the season.

MALCOLM WALDRON – Southampton

'MY WEMBLEY DEBUT'

I'VE absolutely no complaints about this season whatsoever.

Saints have been pretty successful considering it was our first back in the big League.

We were struggling a little at the start when we found it difficult to find any real consistency in our play.

But since then we have had a good F.A. Cup run, we are above halfway in the League and of course reached the League Cup Final. Although we lost to Forest at Wembley, I don't consider it bad considering our shaky start.

It was my first appearance in the world's greatest stadium. I sat in the stands during our F.A. Cup Final win in 1976 and was substitute in the Charity Shield a few months later.

So overall it's been a very satisfying season for the club and myself.

We hear so much about the standard of refereeing but I've been pleased with the way they have controlled games. However, you will always get at least one dodgy ref in a season.

'OUTCLASSED BY LEEDS'

LOSING 4-0 to Leeds United in the League at Elland Road has got to be my worst moment of the season.

I've never played in a game where the match has been so one-sided, we were outclassed in every department.

After the game in the dressing-room the boss, Lawrie McMenemy, came in and gave us a right roasting.

When everyone had cooled down, I was chatting to members of the Leeds' team and they said it was their best performance of the season.

The state of football hooliganism hasn't changed. If there is trouble on the terraces I try to ignore it and concentrate on my game.

But I remember one incident a couple of seasons back when we were playing Man. United. I was driving in to the car park when suddenly a fist came through the window. Luckily I saw it coming and dodged out of the way.

DIXIE McNEIL – Wrexham



'VALUABLE LESSONS LEARNED'

ALTHOUGH the team have struggled a little this season I reckon we've been gaining experience all the time. Lessons that will stand us in good stead for next term. As you know Wrexham are playing Second Division football for the first time in our history.

It's been tremendous appearing in front of bigger crowds and against better players, and at one stage in the season we were riding high in about fifth or sixth position, but then came the bad weather.

Another highlight for me this term was our form in the F.A. Cup.

We were very unfortunate to be knocked out by Tottenham at the Racecourse Ground in the Fourth Round.

We drew 3-3 at their place after they had scored a late equaliser.

Then in the replay we were leading in extra-time, but Spurs came back to snatch victory.

'LACK OF GOALS – TOO MANY INJURIES'

THE lack of goals I've scored this season has got to be my biggest disappointment of 1978-79.

I've gone really close on a number of occasions, hitting the woodwork for instance. Last season they would have gone in.

But, another upset has been the number of injuries the team have suffered. It has been impossible to field the same side for more than a couple of games.

I know every club has an injury list but I reckon we have suffered more than most.

It's been impossible to get any real consistency going because as soon as one player regains his fitness another gets injured.

To add to those problems we have also been struck by postponements due to the bad weather.

When we played our Cup-tie against Spurs we were about five or six games behind anybody else, so I was lacking match fitness. That resulted in me losing a little sharpness around the penalty-area.





If you want a fairly safe bet, it's that West Brom will be in Europe again in 1979-80 . . . and the trophy most likely to come to The Hawthorns this season is the Manager of the Year award.

In 15 months, Ron Atkinson has changed from being the guy who managed a small Second Division club into one of soccer's most likeable and successful bosses.

And as Albion have been involved all season in honour-chasing, The Tank, as he was known as a player (those who tried to stop him will tell you why!) has emerged as favourite to succeed Brian Clough, whatever West Brom may achieve.

Football has been a little short on characters, especially at managerial level, but Atkinson's arrival at the top has been a boost for English soccer. His West Brom team are an extension of his own personality . . . confident, outgoing and tremendously

entertaining.

Atkinson places entertainment high on his list of priorities. He says: "Listen, I may be a manager, but that doesn't mean I want to see dull football. I like to be entertained and I reckon my side are good value for money."

"People can pay to see West Brom confident of seeing a good game. I would never con the public and I want everyone who watches Albion to go away saying how much they enjoyed it."

Atkinson learnt his soccer the hard way, coming through the ranks of non-League football. He started his career with Wolves, moved to Aston Villa, but it was with Oxford United he made his mark.

He was with United for around 11 years and helped them rise from the Southern League to the Second Division of the Football League.

Ron then joined Kettering Town

West
Brom's
manager

RON



as player/manager and took them to two Southern League titles in three seasons.

Next stop: Cambridge United, who were near the foot of Division Four when he arrived . . . and pushing for promotion from Division Three when he left . . . just three years later.

Now, Atkinson has established himself as one of England's shrewdest managers and his Albion side are, arguably, the most attack-conscious team in the League, home and away.

True, West Brom weren't exactly a bad side when he took over, but as fellow manager Lawrie McMenemy of Southampton says: "Ron's done a grand job. He's brought the best out of players like Laurie Cunningham and Ally Brown. His personality rubs off onto his players and I reckon he's going to become one of the top managers of the Eighties."

Atkinson, himself, is annoyed at any suggestion that he's 'had it easy'.

"I realise the people before me had done a lot of hard work. However, I like to think I've made the side more positive and although many of the faces are the same, the style is different.

"My aim is to make Albion like Liverpool - consistent. I don't want to win a trophy this year and then go downhill. I want to keep winning trophies and see us established as a big club."

This is why Atkinson invested a cool half-million in Middlesbrough's David Mills, who began his West Brom career as the most expensive substitute ever!

"If we are to maintain our challenge at the top, we must have a strong squad of players. I'd been after David for ages because he's so versatile. People have said £500,000

is a lot of money. Well, it is, but almost half of that would have gone in tax, anyway, so if you look at it like that, he's a bargain."

Ron, who is challenging Tommy Docherty and Malcolm Allison in the champagne-drinking League, is certainly doing a fine job at The Hawthorns.

He's brought David Stewart from Leeds to challenge Tony Godden, and the result is the West Brom 'keeper has never shown better form.

Atkinson went back to his former club Cambridge for full-back Brendon Batson who cost "peanuts" . . . now, the black defender is one of Division One's classiest defenders.

John Wile and Alistair Robertson have emerged this season as the League's steadiest centre-backs, while left-back Derek Statham will surely win a full England cap one day.

In midfield, Tony Brown seems to get better and still has a huge appetite for goals despite his record-breaking achievements.

Len Cantello and Bryan Robson may not be big names, but they're big in skill and do a first-class job.

In attack, Laurie Cunningham, Cyrille Regis and Ally Brown are as dangerous as any front-line. Throw in David Mills and John Trewick and you have a team always likely to score goals.

Ask Ron his proudest moment, and he'll tell you it was that night in Valencia when his Albion lads outshone World Cup stars Mario Kempes and Rainer Bonhof.

"We were booed on to the pitch and cheered off. Laurie Cunningham was magic, not even George Best at his peak could have bettered Laurie's performance. I can't tell you how proud I was that night. We even gave Valencia a goal start, yet

ATKINSON graduated from Oxford and Cambridge



Above: Skipper John Wile shouts instructions while keeping an eye on Valencia's Mario Kempes. Left: The Three Degrees, Albion style - Laurie Cunningham, Brendon Batson and Cyrille Regis. Right: Derek Statham and Tony Brown - action men of The Hawthorns.



came back and although we only drew, we murdered them."

Albion have made a name for themselves in Europe this season and the West Brom boss firmly believes their summer trip to China last year helped them.

"One disadvantage of European soccer is that you can encounter all sorts of problems when travelling. After a month in China, Europe has been a doddle! There is nothing new for the boys to sample in the way of hazards! The time together also did wonders for team-spirit."

A television programme about Albion's Chinese adventure gave us an insight to how players react and behave when abroad and the humour of the West Brom team came over clearly. For example, when asked about the Great Wall of China, one player replied: "When you've seen one wall you've seen them all!"

With three black players in their line-up, West Brom are 'easy targets' for laughs and as Batson, Regis and Cunningham are the main 'culprits', you begin to realise it's good-natured and not malicious.

Atkinson jokes that "we should win all our games as we have three blacks start", a snooker-oriented remark that has the team laughing.

Regis will tell you it takes the physio five minutes to find the bruise when he's kicked. Also, the reason Kunte Kinte, hero of the *Roots* series, had a foot cut off was so Albion couldn't sign another black striker!

All good fun . . . but everything about Albion is fun, although taken very seriously on the pitch.

And with The Tank guiding his troops, Albion will be winning quite a few battles - and new fans - in the future.



JULY 30th, 1966 – the day England, as Alf Ramsey had promised, won the World Cup at Wembley.

They were once again a major force at international level... their players as well-known in Brazil as in Burnley and Birmingham.

Here we remember those Wembley wizards, recall their careers for club and country and discover what became of the team that Alf Ramsey built.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ALF RAMSEY

Born Dagenham, Essex, in 1920. Married in 1951 and knighted in 1967. Discovered playing for Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in 1940 by Southampton. Turned professional in 1944. Wages... £8 per week. Made his England debut against Switzerland in 1948 and joined Tottenham for £21,000 in May, 1949.

He won a total of 32 full caps, including three in 1950 World Cup when England lost 1-0 to the United States. Appointed manager of Ipswich Town in 1955 and guided the club to the Third Division (South) Championship in 1956-57, promotion to the First Division in 1960-61 and the League Championship in 1961-62.

Appointed England manager in 1963 and lost first match v. France 5-2.

In 1966 England won the World Cup... 1967 he was knighted for his services to football.

Sacked by England on May 1st, 1974.

Became a director of Birmingham City in January, 1976, and appointed unpaid caretaker-manager of the club in September, 1977, then consultant-manager.

In March, 1978, he left Birmingham after a row concerning Trevor Francis!

Now an executive with sportswear firm Gola.

England's record in the 1966 World Cup Finals.

- v. Uruguay 0-0
- v. Mexico 2-0 (R. Charlton, Hunt)
- v. France 2-0 (Hurst 2)
- v. Argentina 1-0 (Hurst)
- v. Portugal - Semi-Finals 2-1 (R. Charlton 2)
- v. West Germany - Final 4-2 (after extra-time Hurst 3, Peters)

Other members of the squad: Peter Bonetti, Ron Springett, Jimmy Armfield, Gerry Byrne, Norman Hunter, Ian Callaghan, Ron Flowers, Jimmy Greaves, Terry Paine, John Connelly, George Eastham.

GORDON BANKS

Born in Sheffield, December, 1937. Made his debut for Chesterfield in 1958 and went on to play for Leicester, Stoke and then in America for Fort Lauderdale. He played a total of 510 games in the Football League and between 1963-72 won 73 full caps... a record for an England goalkeeper.

Among the highlights of his League career was helping Stoke win the League Cup in 1972.

Rated after 1966 as the number one number one in the world. Sadly his career in England was ended when he suffered an eye injury in a car crash. He announced his retirement in August, 1973, and went off to the States.

Now back in England as a coach at Port Vale.

GEORGE COHEN

Born in Kensington, London, on October 22nd, 1939. Made 408 League appearances between 1957-69 for his only club Fulham. Won a total of 38 full caps.

George was a forerunner of a new breed of full-back. Fast, skilful and a master of the overlap. He took over from Jimmy Armfield and formed a prolific partnership with Ray Wilson.

A knee injury forced him out of the game at 30 and has been troubled by illness ever since. After a spell as manager of Southern League Tonbridge, he became a land-buyer for a Kent firm.

RAY WILSON

Born Shirebrook in Derbyshire in December, 1934. In a League career spanning 1956-70 he played for Huddersfield, Everton, Oldham, and Bradford City... a total of 405 games. In all he won 63 England caps. After moving to Everton he helped them win the F.A. Cup in 1966... a few weeks before going back to Wembley with England for the World Cup.

Knee trouble escalated his retirement after which he was offered the manager's job at Bradford. Instead he became a director in his father-in-law's funeral business. Still plays Sunday football.



Jackie Charlton gives a pep-talk to his Sheffield Wednesday players before they go into extra-time in an F.A. Cup replay v. Arsenal. Nobby Stiles (below), the present Preston boss.



NOBBY STILES

Born in Manchester, May 1942. Played a total of 415 League games between 1960-75 for Manchester United, Middlesbrough and Preston. Made 28 full appearances for England.

Famous for his tigerish tackle, fierce competitive spirit and his victory jig at Wembley after England's World Cup triumph. Among the highlights of his career at club level was helping Manchester United win the European Cup in 1968.

Today he is manager of Second Division Preston.



JACKIE CHARLTON

Born Ashington, Northumberland, in May, 1938. He played for one club, Leeds, between 1953-73 and made 629 League appearances. Won 35 caps.

Known as The Giraffe, he came into Alf Ramsey's team just before the World Cup, but quickly established himself as one of the great centre-backs in the game.

Still heavily involved in football, he became manager of Middlesbrough in 1973 and steered them to promotion to the First Division in his first season. Now in charge at Sheffield Wednesday and a regular figure on television.



ALAN BALL

Born in Farnworth, Lancs, in May, 1945. Began with Blackpool in 1962, moved on to Everton for a then record £110,000 in August, 1966. Helped Everton to the Championship and F.A. Cup Final before his transfer to Arsenal in another record deal, £220,000, just before Christmas, 1971. Still one of the most effective midfielders in football, he joined Southampton in December, 1976, for £60,000 and led them out at Wembley in the 1978-79 League Cup Final.

During the summer he stars for Philadelphia Fury where he was player-manager in 1978.

Played around 700 League games and won 72 caps.



GEOFF HURST

Born Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs, in December, 1941. Made 528 League appearances for West Ham, Stoke, and West Brom. Won 49 caps.

His hat-trick in the 1966 World Cup Final made him famous throughout the world ... and changed his whole career.

Started as a wing-half at West Ham and converted to striker by Ron Greenwood, the present England boss. As a front-runner he scored 211 League goals ... and 24 times for England.

Ended his League days with West Brom before joining Southern League Telford as player-manager.

Almost became boss of Third Division Peterborough this season, but they couldn't agree terms with Telford.

Apart from his duties with the non-Leaguers, he is one of Ron Greenwood's coaches with the England squad.

Has a very successful pub-restaurant business.

MARTIN PETERS

Born Plaistow, East London, on November 8th, 1942. Over 625 League games for West Ham, Spurs and now Norwich City. Caps ... 67.

One of the most stylish midfield players in the world and nicknamed "The Ghost" because of his ability to appear as if from nowhere to head goals from the near-post.

Made almost 200 League appearances for Spurs before his transfer to Norwich in 1975 ... where he is still operating successfully as skipper.

Hopes to go into coaching or management when he does eventually retire from playing.

BOBBY MOORE

Born Barking, Essex, April 12th, 1941. League career spanned 1959-78 ... his clubs West Ham and Fulham. He played 632 League games and won 108 full caps ... an England record.

He completed a unique hat-trick of Wembley appearances when he collected the World Cup. In 1964 he skippered West Ham to F.A. Cup victory and 1965 European Cup-Winners' Cup success. Captained England in the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico and was voted "Player of the Tournament". Transferred to Fulham for £25,000 in 1974 and played alongside his former England team-mate Alan Mullery in the 1975 F.A. Cup Final ... against West Ham. Retired from League football at the end of the 1976-77 season.

Almost got the manager's job at Watford, before Graham Taylor.

Still out of active football in this country, he concentrates on his thriving pub and restaurant businesses and TV appearances.

ROGER HUNT

Born Golborne, Lancs, on July 20th, 1938. Active League service with Liverpool and Bolton between the years 1959-72. League matches ... 478 ... England caps ... 34. His unselfish running and ability as a target man was one of the main reasons for Liverpool's success during the 1960's. One of the most under-rated players ever to gain international recognition, his efforts were appreciated more by team-mates than fans. But he scored many vital goals for his club. Announced his retirement from international football in 1969. Now has a road haulage business.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Born Ashington, Northumberland, in October, 1937. Starred for Manchester United and Preston between 1956-75 and played in 644 League games. Won 106 caps for England. One of this country's true world class players before helping England win the World Cup. Survivor of Munich, he went on to play in many memorable matches for club and country and score goals still remembered by fans everywhere.

A giant of the game he made his last international appearance in the 1970 World Cup Quarter-Final tie against West Germany.

In 1973 was appointed manager of Preston, but didn't have the success he enjoyed as a player.

Now has an executive interest in a thriving travel business. Still plays in charity matches.

Alan Ball (right), still a commanding force in the game. Geoff Hurst (far right) still on England duty. On top of the world (below). Bobby Moore and the heroes of '66 celebrate their triumph.





THE SHOTS ARE AIMING TO **DOUBLE THEIR FANS**

For a successful side as Aldershot most decidedly are, the Hampshire club attracts very disappointing gates.

Last season The Shots went the entire campaign unbeaten on their own Recreation Ground, yet gates rarely topped 4,000 – and this season despite a club record run of 16 matches without defeat it's been the same story.

Manager Tommy McAnearney says: "It's bitterly disappointing that

country in which you find both Aldershot and Reading could be in for a good season with both winning promotion.

"Reading are a good side. Given the breaks I think we can both go up which will bring the area to life."

The key men in the Aldershot side are goalkeeper Glen Johnson, defender Joe Jopling who was at Leicester in between his two spells with Aldershot, midfielder Alex McGregor a highly-gifted player and John Dungworth, who bears the brunt of the goalscoring responsibilities.

There are others of course, dynamic midfielder Will Dixon and left-side specialist Murray Brodie in particular, while Nigel Edwards has settled well at right-back in his first season since leaving Chester.

McAnearney knows he has a good side but believes he won't discover how good until promotion is achieved.

"Some players grow in stature the higher up the League they go – others find the pace a bit too hot, but I'm confident we have the men to cope. Unfortunately while gates are so low we don't get money through the turnstiles to help us strengthen the team."

There could be a question mark over The Shots if promotion isn't achieved this season though, bearing in mind last year's narrow failure. Players do tend to invent questions in their own minds if they do keep missing out like that.

McAnearney hopes that won't happen and that at this time next year Aldershot are attracting double their present gates – in the Third Division.

Top of page: Manager Tom McAnearney (centre) with coaches John Anderson and Dave Turner. Above: John Dungworth (right).

we can't attract better support.

"Over the past couple of seasons we've built a very useful side and we're close to winning promotion to the Third Division.

"We only just missed out last season after being in the top four throughout almost the entire campaign, and now we're in serious contention again.

"Some people say it's best to be nibbling away behind the top four because that sort of position means the players can relax more without the pressure of being on top, but I'd prefer to be leading."

McAnearney believes that the South-West residential belt of the

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SUPPORTING A
WINNER EVERY
WEEK – PLACE A
REGULAR ORDER
FOR SHOOT
NOW!**



**DREW
JARVIE
Aberdeen**



GRAHAM RIX Arsenal

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1. The following players have been transferred this season. Their former sides are in brackets . . . can you name the clubs they joined? (a) Don Givens (below, Queens Park Rangers), (b) Brian Talbot (Ipswich Town), (c) Joey Jones (Liverpool) and (d) Kenny Swain (Chelsea).

6. Trevor Francis became the first player to be transferred for £1 million in England when he moved from Birmingham City to Nottingham Forest. He made his first official appearance in a testimonial in the West Country against which Third Division club?

7. Another club in the transfer market in February were West Ham. They paid over half a million pounds for goalkeeper Phil Parkes (right) from Queens Park Rangers. Was the recognised fee £525,000, £545,000 or £565,000?

8. Can you remember the last Fourth Division club in this season's F.A. Cup competition?

9. Still with the F.A. Cup, how many of the scheduled Fifth Round ties were played on the original date of February 17th?

10. Luther Blissett and Ross Jenkins form a deadly strike partnership with well over 50 goals between them for which Third Division club this term?

11. The League Cup tournament produced plenty of shocks. The First Division clubs listed were knocked out by clubs from lower Divisions . . . can you name their conquerors? (a) Arsenal, (b) Spurs, (c) Bolton and (d) Middlesbrough?

2. Viv Anderson (right) became the first black player to represent England at full level when he made his debut against which country?

3 Micky Nutton, Steve Gattling, Russell Osman and Justin Fashanu all broke through to regular first team soccer this season. Who plays for (a) Norwich City, (b) Arsenal, (c) Ipswich Town and (d) Chelsea?

4. How did England fare in their European Championship clash with Northern Ireland at Wembley in February?

5. Which two clubs contested the Scottish League Cup Final in March?

13. True or false? Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest became the first club to win the League Cup in two successive seasons.

14. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of a First Division striker and his club ... OBB TCLOARDFH (VEENROT).

15. Cast your minds back to the last World Cup Finals in Argentina, and name the countries that finished in third and fourth place?

16. You should know Argentina won the trophy ... but who guided them to their triumph?

17. Which Belgian club beat Liverpool 4-3 on aggregate to win the European Super Cup this season?

18. Brighton's Teddy Maybank has played for two London clubs ... can you name them?

19. Five British clubs were left in the European Cup competitions at the Quarter-Finals stage. Who are they?

20. The following clubs fell at the First or Second Round. Can you select the correct one? (a) Aberdeen, (b) Finn Harps, and (c) Everton.

12. The 1978-79 season will go down as the campaign when the Football League accepted foreign players. (a) Petar Borota, (b) Alex Sabella (above), (c) Frans Thijssen and (d) Ricardo Villa all made an impact. Which clubs do they play for?

ANSWERS:

Ipawich, (d) Spurs, 13, Irué, 14, Bob Latchford (Evertón), 15, Brazil and Italy, 16, Cesar Luis Menotti, 17, Anderlecht, 18, Chelsea and Fulham, 19, Nottingham Forest, Glasgow Rangers, Ipswich, West Brom and Manchester City, 20, (a) Second, (b) First, (c) Second.

1. (a) Birmingham, (b) Arsenal, (c) Wrexham, (d) Aston Villa, 2. Czechoslovakia, 3. (a) Fashanu, (b) Gating, (c) Osman, (d) Nutton, 4. Won 4-0, 5. Aberdeen and Rangers, 6. Exeter, 7. £565,000, 8. Alder-shot, 9. All postponed, 10. Watford, 11. (a) Rotherham, (b) Swansea, (c) Exeter, (d) Peterborough, 12. (a) Chelsea, (b) Sheffield United, (c)

NO ILL-FEELING NOW FOR 'YOUNG DOC'

Sunderland's Mike Docherty is a man with a burning belief in the Roker club. And whether or not the Wearsiders are promoted this season, he reckons their eventual destination is the First Division.

"The ground facilities, the ambition, the crowd – everything is here," explains Docherty. "Obviously, the priority at the moment is to get out of the Second Division, and to me it's not a matter of if we

appreciated the backing I got from them later.

"I must admit that I had some misgivings earlier about moving up to the North-East. I had visions of coal-mines and docks, but soon discovered the beautiful countryside there is around here."

Docherty, born in Preston, was an apprentice when he joined Chelsea, then managed by his colourful father, Tommy Docherty. Next, he signed for Burnley, with his father not wishing to be accused of favouritism, and at 17 was promoted to the first team – what followed was to test the resilience of the "Young Doc" to the full. . .

"I got a knee injury after five years at Turf Moor and was told my chances of a complete recovery were very slim. There was a period of two seasons of inactivity which I will always remember as the worst time of my life."

But Docherty recovered, was transferred to Manchester City, had nine months at Maine Road, and was taken to Sunderland in 1976 by his former Burnley boss Jimmy Adamson.

Sweeper

"I dropped out of favour when the team had a bad patch at the start of the season after being relegated. Later, I was brought back as a sweeper at Blackburn following weeks of being out of the side, and after that game was selected to play in midfield."

"These days, a player must be ready to accept a change of position if the manager thinks it necessary, and if the player adapts, the move is satisfactory for everyone."

Docherty is a man of definite ideas, and one of them is that there should be no change made in soccer fixture lists following the serious hold-up in the League programme due to bad weather in January and February.

"I'm dead against summer football, and any sort of shut-down during the winter months."

"Teams should be able to cope with various conditions – a side which wins the League title can consider it has the qualities needed to do well, from August to April."

"Here at Sunderland we've a young team but one I believe able to hold its own on any surface. Not only that, but with the addition of a couple of players, I think we can have a good future."

For over three years, centre-half John Bird has been fighting to establish himself with Newcastle United – and in 1979, the big fellow looks like winning the battle.

When Bird was transferred from Preston North End to Gallowgate, Bobby Charlton resigned the managership at Deepdale in protest, and the player travelled North with mixed feelings.

"It was flattering that Bobby should rate me highly enough to take the stand he did," explains John. "Yet at the same time I felt there was a lot of pressure on me. The crowd seemed to expect I would be a super-player who was sure to turn in outstanding performances right from the off."

"But that's not my style. I'm the sort who gradually builds up in performance over a period, and during my settling-in spell, I took some tough criticism from the crowd. In fact I was depressed enough at one time to think that the only thing to do was to leave United."

right frame of mind to play."

Bird, who is married lives with his wife Janet in the seaside town of Whitely Bay, with daughter Laura (five) and son Jonathon (15 months). And he is enjoying his soccer.

"I know that the team has been struggling to put its game together this season, and there have been bad times. But there is a tremendous spirit in the club to succeed, and we've good players who are really prepared to graft at their job."

"Of course, we have had injuries which haven't helped, and among those out of action have been Jim Pearson, John Connolly, Peter Kelly and John Blackley. Sometimes there are teams we come up against who are lower in the League than us, and we feel we should beat, but don't – but we are capable of playing football good enough to hold our own with the better sides."

Why John Bird wanted to leave Newcastle

"In my first season at St. James' I played only 19 League matches, and missed out on a League Cup appearance because I was already Cup-tied with Preston before my transfer."

"Then in the following term I managed only five games – the opening four of the season and the last one. In between I was laid up with a number of injuries while the club was clinching a place in Europe."

"Last season, I enjoyed my best-ever run with Newcastle, only to be dropped at the end of it, and the club was relegated to the Second Division."

Not surprisingly, Bird's chapter of disasters were the reason for his delay in signing a new contract with United last August. But once having put his signature on the dotted line, the player's over-riding ambition was to establish himself in the first team.

"Now I believe my relations with the fans are better, and I also have a new philosophy – I don't sit down after a game and brood over any mistakes I've made. This is largely due to a business I'm engaged in which takes up most of my spare time, and prevents worrying too much if we've lost a match."

These days, as well as his football, Bird has developed a highly-successful business as an artist. His company exhibits original paintings by local artists, and he also exhibits his own work in oils, predominantly of vivid local seascapes.

"The painting is very relaxing, keeping me occupied so that when match days come along I am fully prepared for them and I am exactly in the



will go up, but when. And once we are back in the First Division, the feeling is that we will stay there."

In his spell of over two years at Roker, the "Young Doc" has had his full share of ups and downs. He has been dropped, experienced a change of position, and suffered the criticism of the fans. But he overcame all that to become club captain when he took over from Bobby Kerr last September.

His appointment as skipper emphasised Docherty's changing fortunes with Sunderland. In his very first game for the Wearsiders, he had led them out as captain against Preston – then his career nose dived and he appeared to have no future at Roker.

Left out of the side by Jimmy Adamson, the Sunderland boss at that time, Docherty was offered a new contract last summer. He signed it, and it marked the beginning of his comeback with the club.

He recalls: "It was certainly no secret that the supporters had given me some stick. Yet they are tremendous fans, taking their football seriously, and I



There was a time when the general public's idea of the average professional soccer player was of a brainless thickie whose vocabulary consisted of "yer know" and "knock it about".

And it's true that a series of television interviews with mono-syllabic players who probably froze with nerves in front of the cameras, did nothing to improve the image of the character.

There's a story that one local radio station actually broadcast an interview with a Third Division

They left school having had to "do as they were told" – and quite rightly – and joined clubs where discipline was again rigid, so that there was little opportunity for freedom of expression.

Molly-coddling never helped anyone, but there are certain clubs who insist on doing everything for players.

Maybe they're afraid of the consequences of not doing so, but such insistence is detrimental to character-building and scarcely encourages someone to stand on his own two feet.

This lack of trust once got through to the highly-educated Martin Buchan, of Manchester United who was so incensed on one foreign trip that he refused to "hand in" his passport to the club official who was collecting them.

"I'm not a little boy, I'm quite capable of carrying it myself," he

Tottenham's Ardiles is a model for all youngsters to copy. Right: Martin Buchan refused to hand over his passport.

defender which lasted two-and-a-half minutes and contained 123 "yer know's".

But happily it seems that more and more educated types are finding their way into the game.

Perhaps it is that the financial rewards are greater, and job prospects therefore more appetizing, but certainly incentives are higher than they were a few years ago when some youngsters opted to play non-League and enter another profession in preference to full-time soccer.

A number of managers take credit for allowing youngsters to pursue studies in non-footballing hours, and others have given more freedom and responsibility to players – the majority of whom have responded well.

Too many footballers were never allowed to grow up.

BRAINS IN





Above: Steve Heighway (dark strip) is articulate on and off the park. Left: Company director and England star Trevor Brooking.



Everton's Geoff Nulty is one of several players with a University degree.

proclaimed.

Some clubs govern their players' banking arrangements, organise daily menus for them, and even advise on clothing and hairstyling.

Little wonder resentment is often built up by players who don't want to be spoon-fed.

Happily more of today's footballers are being treated as responsible individuals - as men of the world.

At Liverpool Bob Paisley has fostered a great spirit based on mutual trust.

One of his most skilful and consistent stars, Steve Heighway, is generally known to be one of the game's brainiest boffins.

He has proved an excellent advertisement - a tremendously skilful player on the field, highly articulate off it.

Ray Clemence has earned immense credit since coming to the fore at international level, and is now much sought after by television and radio as a critic on the big occasion.

Emlyn Hughes has matured considerably probably aided by Liverpool's run of successes and consequent exposure, while Ray Kennedy is one of the game's most approachable and likeable people.

It is surely more than coincidence that former Liverpool ace Kevin Keegan has had the strength of character to overcome all manner of obstacles in becoming our most famous export to the Continent.

Kevin is now a well-rounded person who can cope with any situation, can hold extremely intelligent conversation - in either English or German - and is the best ambassador imaginable for football.

His old Anfield chum Brian Hall is one of the game's bachelors - not the unmarried type - possessing a degree, which will always stand him in good stead after retirement from the game.

Before his move to Burnley, Brian was putting his knowledge to good advantage in "selling" Plymouth Argyle.

As a local personality with the ability to communicate to young and old alike, Brian was a very valuable asset to his club and the game in general.

Manchester United's Steve Coppell and Bolton's Alan Gowling

also possess degrees.

Today's soccer animal is not a moron - contrary to some public belief - and the way West Bromwich Albion's players conducted themselves on last year's pioneering tour of China, has helped destroy the myth.

On an arduous visit which could well have taxed the most experienced world traveller Ron Atkinson's party displayed creditable behaviour at all times.

Some footballers are even said to have brains in their boots.

Perhaps the outstanding example is England's Trevor Brooking, a successful businessman as well as being one of our most skilful players. Somehow one only has to look at the West Ham midfield ace to see that he is intelligent.

On the field his artistic talents are a joy to watch, and we suppose it can be said that his quick brain enables him to see situations others would not visualise.

Off the field, he talks passionately and always lucidly about the game - his telepathic understanding with Kevin Keegan when they play together for England, owes much to their brain-power.

Deep thinkers about the game like Jack Charlton, Terry Venables, Johnny Giles, Danny Blanchflower, Gordon Jago and Brian Clough invariably have outside interests - just to exercise their minds satisfactorily.

Good players all, they were the sort who needed to stimulate their minds and this creativity of thinking has been reflected in their mode of management.

Following their example today are men like Duncan McKenzie, who speaks several languages, and Geoff Nulty, who has just graduated from the Open University.

Nulty was always the one other players turned to for guidance and leadership at Newcastle, and it may be the same at Everton, though he has equally clever comrades here in Martin Dobson and Mick Lyons.

Reading have a brainy pair in Lawrie Sanchez (still studying at school) and John Alexander, so it can be seen that even the lower Division clubs are now able to attract the cultured types.

With an increasing number of club trips abroad, the horizons of today's professional footballer are being widened further than ever before.

And the arrival of the foreign footballer in our League can only help.

The cultures of the Pole, the Slav, the Dutchman, etc. are being seen at first hand in English dressing rooms, and perhaps we can all learn a little from that dapper gentleman Osvaldo Ardiles, from Argentina.

In his first six months down Tottenham High Road, Ardiles, a most worthy man, as well as a gifted footballer, has become a symbol to us all.

He acts with utter decorum, has no time at all for bickering or back-chatting, has integrated smoothly into the British way of life, and has played to his utmost capacity to become the perfect model for all youngsters.

A genuine man with brains in his boots as well as his head.

Nine years ago, a thin slip of a lad from Scotland with good looks and a fair share of ability with a football, ventured South like some modern Dick Whittington to earn fame and fortune.

At Christmas he made the same journey for the second time, perhaps a little sadder, certainly more wiser.

Peter Marinello is hoping he will be left alone to concentrate on his rather limited ambition of "just keeping a first team place with Fulham" unlike his experience first time round.

Then he arrived at Arsenal with the millstone around his neck of being dubbed "another George Best".

"Looking back now I can see that too much happened too soon and too quickly for me," he says.

joined Portsmouth when they were in the Second Division."

Poor Marinello picked the wrong club. Portsmouth struggled to halt a giddy slide and were losing money hand over fist so swiftly that they were relieved to sell him back to Scotland.

With Motherwell, Marinello won back his confidence and his pride, and never gave a thought to returning South of the border.

"It was quite a shock when Fulham came in for me – even though I'd heard they were interested six months before.

"Two American clubs had also made approaches, but I didn't really expect anything to happen, especially at Christmas."

Marinello made the perfect start at Craven Cottage, helping Fulham to Christmas victories

PETER MARINELLO Soccer's Dick Whittington

"I only had been playing one season in Scotland with Hibernian when the move came, and perhaps if I had given it one more year up there to gain experience, things might have turned out differently at Highbury.

"It all seemed so glamorous at the time, though. Arsenal were a fabulous club, and nobody ever turned down the chance of joining them, let alone a starry-eyed kid like me from Scotland.

"Everything started well for me at Highbury too, and there were some very nice people there.

"Eventually though, I became impatient and decided a change of club might change my luck so I

over Cambridge and Luton. And then on a fine F.A. Cup run, which included a tremendous 1-1 draw in a Fourth Round tie against Manchester United at home.

"I'm honestly just going to concentrate on holding down a regular place here – though obviously it would be nice to go back to the First Division and meet Arsenal.

"The previous experience will stand me in good stead, and I've no regrets about anything that's happened."

Peter (white shirt) tries to force his way through for Fulham against Sunderland this season.



'New Spurs will be a force again' says PETER TAYLOR

No club was under the microscope as much as newly-promoted Tottenham when this season got under way last August.

Their progress was being monitored all over Europe – not just England. The reason? Manager Keith Burkinshaw's incredibly brave decision to spend £750,000 on Argentinian World Cup aces Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa.

It was a move that stunned the rest of the football world. No one had thought such a stupendous coup was possible – yet the quiet, dour Burkinshaw went out and pulled it off.

Naturally Tottenham's unprecedented swoop did not meet with unanimous approval from people in the game here.

Some – motivated, no doubt – by jealousy – were hoping Tottenham would fall flat on their faces to prove there was no place for "foreigners" in the Football League.

And there were some barely suppressed chuckles when Spurs made a poor start to the season – being dumped out of the League Cup by Third Division Swansea and taking a 7-0 hiding at Liverpool.

"That will teach them," gloated the cynics. "Now perhaps this will provide a lesson for others – we don't need these players."

Those sneering words were soon to be rammed down a few throats as Tottenham finally settled down and put together a run of results that sent them shooting up the First Division table.

They have had a few ups and downs since, but have to be generally happy with the way their season has gone – as England winger Peter Taylor explains.

"If someone had asked me last August if I'd be happy with a mid-table position in our first season back in the First Division I'd have certainly said 'yes'.

"When you look at it we were going back to the top section with practically a new team.

"For, in addition to the Argentinians, we had John Lacy – a £200,000 signing from Fulham – at centre-half. Don McAllister, who played most of last season at centre-half, was switched to full-back to accommodate Lacy and Jimmy Holmes – left-back last season – was now playing as sweeper.

"In addition skipper Steve Perryman moved from the back-four to midfield for a spell. We also introduced a new 'keeper in Mark Kendall, and bought Milija Aleksic from Luton.

"So it was obvious we were in a

period of transition and were not going to set things alight.

"Our job was made more difficult because everyone was watching to see how the Argentinians would do. And they have been brilliant.

"Villa took a bit longer to adjust than Ardiles and he had a long spell on the substitute's bench, but he never complained, which is typical of him.

"But Ardiles played from the off as though he had been here all his life and showed form that was absolutely unbelievable.

"And the most often expressed doubt – about his ability to master the conditions thrown up by the English winter – has been proved complete nonsense.

"We've been hit by the worst winter for 16 years. Yet Ardiles and



Villa got better and better.

"They have been a real credit to the game. And those managers who were against letting them in the country don't complain about the extra gate money they pull in when Spurs visit.

"They have settled in really well and contribute to the fine team spirit we have at White Hart Lane.

"We always find time for a laugh and a joke. But it's always done at the right time – after the hard work in training has been done.

"We were forced to sit down and have a hard think about things after those early season setbacks. We sorted them out to come fighting back – so that shows how determined we are to make Tottenham a force again."

ANDY'S KING OF GOODISON



At least twice a season two of the world's most famous clubs clash in football's most glamorous local derby.

An Everton/Liverpool fixture is football's equivalent for the players of a Royal Variety Performance for Show Business stars.

For players born within walking distance of the grounds there's more than two points at stake. There's personal pride.

So how does someone like Andy King for instance, brought up a few hundred miles down the M1 in a village outside Luton cope with the hysteria of a Merseyside derby?

"Although I'm a Southerner, I find these games as gripping as anyone else," he says.

"I can't help not getting involved. It amazes me how some of our players can remain so cool and treat it just like a normal League game. But you can't say that of our captain Mick Lyons. He really gets carried away with the game.

"In all the years at Everton, he's never been on a winning side in the Merseyside derby. He was unfortunate to miss this season's victory at Goodison when I managed to score the only goal of the game."

Andy recalls his first derby under former Everton manager Billy Bingham.

"With Billy the pressure and the excitement began on the Monday morning prior to the Saturday.

"The place was buzzing with excitement as soon as the week started. Whereas with the present boss, Gordon Lee, he tries to make players believe it's just another League meeting. But some players get overawed by the occasion."

Andy King is now an experienced Evertonian and can absorb the pressure of other derby games. He was snapped up for a bargain £35,000 in March, 1976 from Luton. He scored his first ever hat-trick for Everton this season against Bristol City when he was pushed up-front, in place of Mickey Walsh.

"I was very happy at Luton, under

Harry Haslam," says Andy. "I was surprised by Everton's keenness to sign me. But at the time, Luton were in financial trouble and were forced into selling me.

"Since my move up North I think my football has vastly improved. I'm now playing a higher standard of soccer."

Success has eluded Everton for nearly a decade, since they won the League Championship in 1970. Gordon Lee has sold and bought expensive players in his efforts to build a team capable of winning honours, but so far no trophy has found its way to the club's boardroom.

"I can't pin-point the reason why," says the likeable Southerner. "We look a very good side on paper but when it comes to delivering the goods we seem to fall at the last hurdle.

"Mr. Lee is doing a marvellous job and I'm positive it won't be long before Everton win an honour.

"Second best is no good for this club. I wouldn't be here if I thought we had no chance of achieving something.

"We came close in 1977 when we lost to Aston Villa in the League Cup Final. I owe the fans something because in the three games it took to achieve a result I didn't play well in any of them."

But those disappointments are firmly confined to the record books. With two England Under-21 caps and the possibility of full honours to follow, the ambitious King is confident he can be part of an Everton side that can bring success to a loyal and patient Goodison crowd.

In Andy's three years at Everton he bears only one regret about leaving South.

"I missed my family. But I've now settled down into a lovely house. The only snag, my father still likes to see me play each week and that's an awful lot of travelling over a season for him.

"He, above all, loves the atmosphere generated by an Everton/Liverpool derby."



'RELEGATION won't be the end of the world' says JIM CALDERWOOD Birmingham City

Since Birmingham City regained their First Division status at the start of the 1971-72 season, they have had a continual struggle to stay there.

And since Jim Calderwood, a talented defender, made his debut against Stoke City in November, 1972, he has had to play under the constant threat of relegation.

Although the cheerful Calderwood has played consistently well, until he needed a cartilage operation this season, it looks ominously like the City of Birmingham is going to be minus one club in the First Division next term.

"I must admit, it's looking very bleak at the moment," says Glasgow-born Calderwood. "We have just got to keep battling until the end of the season and hope we can do our Houdini act once again."

How does being a member of a struggling side affect the social activities of Birmingham?

Says Calderwood: "It doesn't at all. We still receive plenty of offers, mainly to visit youngsters in hospital.

"At Birmingham, we work on a rota basis, which usually means we are engaged at least once a week. Of course, when Trevor Francis was at St. Andrews he was heavily in demand but it was a fair system and it worked."

So while things are looking bright off the field, the problems on it are increasing fast. If the worst happens and Birmingham City are relegated, what does the future hold for the club and Jim Calderwood?

"As I said before, it's going to be a battle to stay up," says Calderwood. "And if we go down, I don't believe it will be the end of the world.

"I have never played in the Second Division but I am confident we have the players at St. Andrews to bounce back first time and with a better team.

"I am sure manager Jim Smith will use the £1 million received from the Francis transfer to bolster the team and build for the future."

And once Jim Calderwood is fully fit again, it'll be a sure bet the young defender will be a vital part in the rebuilding.

"I don't remember much about the end of the World Cup Final. My mind's full of jumbled images and words. I remember loads of people hugging me and shouting 'César, we're World Champions!' The jokes in the dressing-room. The blood. Passarella practically beating up a security man who wanted to take the World Cup away. All the celebrations. Then, at half past four in the morning Saporiti, Poncini, Pizzarotti and I set off by van for the city centre to keep a promise that we, the 'technical staff' had made months before. In the van we changed into full Argentina strip and we all ran a lap of honour round the obelisk in the centre of Buenos Aires. I was just on the final sprint when someone recognised me, and we just made it back to the van before the crowd closed in. We roared off into the dawn laughing and laughing like schoolchildren."

César Luis Menotti had just led Argentina to an historic World Cup win that had a whole nation jumping and chanting in the streets for the best part of a week. In the process he'd revolutionised the country's traditionally slap-happy approach to organising the national team. In the past, the manager was appointed six weeks before the Finals; Menotti had been working for four years.

In the past, Argentina sides were a bunch of highly-talented individuals; Menotti built a team. In the past, Argentina were renowned for their cynical defensive play; Menotti insisted on entertainment and attack.

So when Menotti's team took the world title on June 25th, 1978, the man became a national hero. He'd shrugged off persistent and bitter criticism, and he'd built a world-beating team out of seemingly unpromising material such as defender Luis Galvan and midfielder Omar Larrosa, who weren't even undisputed first-teamers with their clubs. The triumph was as much his as theirs.

Who would have believed that six months later the Argentinian F.A. would announce that Menotti wasn't to continue in his post following a failure to agree terms? The bright flame of Menotti's new era was reduced to ashes. Here we take a look at the doubts, pressures and disappointments that led the 40-year-old manager from euphoria to disillusion.

JULY: The elation of the World Cup triumph was slow to die away. Menotti had been presented with just about everything, from four cars to pot plants. He'd been to dozens of official lunches, dinners, suppers and even breakfasts. He'd been inundated with attractive offers from commercial concerns. He'd been invited to write a book, film his life story, make a record. . . He'd accepted a lucrative invitation to talk to journalists in Montevideo. He'd found little time to be re-united with his wife and two sons, César Mario and Alejandro. And, even though he was planning an away-from-it-all holiday in the South of France,



Menotti wasn't happy.

"I've realised that Argentine football isn't ready to be Champion of the world. The World Cup has come and gone, and our football is just as poorly organised as before. Our success hasn't been built on a strong foundation, and I'm worried that the whole thing is just going to crumble. Everything needs seeing to – the League programme, the stadiums, the playing surfaces, the dressing rooms, the facilities for the fans, the money – everything. How can I be happy when even our brand-new World Cup stadiums are already being left to rot? The party's finished now, and what are we left with? I'm so despondent that I'm smoking more now than I did during the World Cup Finals . . . I really



Above left: One of Argentina's World Cup stars Leopoldo Luque.

Above: César Menotti . . . what does the future hold for this remarkable and successful man?

MENOTTI

THE ECSTASY AND THE AGONY

need this holiday!"

AUGUST: Menotti's holiday had lasted 25 days, during which he'd visited Paris, Rome and Germany as well as the Cote d'Azur. He'd tried to avoid all the Press reporters who tracked him down, and he'd been amazed that crowds had gathered round him in every foreign city, town and village that he visited. He was even mobbed in the Vatican. In Germany he appeared on TV and took time off to help design a new boot in the Puma factory in Hanover. "Apart from all the talks, I've also had scores of offers in writing to take over various teams or to take part in some commercial deal or other. There was even an offer of £150,000 in cash if I'd manage a German club. I told everyone that until December 31st, 1978, I was still under contract to the Argentina F.A.

and that ethically I felt it was wrong for me to consider offers while I was still under contract."

SEPTEMBER: "I've lost my appetite for football. All my enthusiasm has gone. I've climbed Aconcagua and now I'm back down in the foothills. The same old foothills." After the dizzy heights of the World Cup, Menotti, like most of his players, is suffering the inevitable reaction and having difficulty in re-motivating himself. "I'm getting thousands of letters that I just can't possibly reply to. The telephone is ringing all the time. People mob me in the street. But for what? Where do I go from here? Little things depress me – like the other day when someone told me we didn't deserve to be World Champions because we suffered for 20 minutes against France and played badly against

Brazil. I reminded him that we didn't get to the Final by thrashing Haiti or Zaire – we had tough opponents all the way. What's more, I'm proud that we won by playing attacking football. I didn't order any of my players to do a man-to-man marking job, and at no time during the tournament did we resort to things like time-wasting. It depresses me that there are people in this world who only remember the suspect details and forget all the good things."

In the meantime, Menotti was still being flooded with offers – and was still insisting on waiting for his contract to expire. Asked if he would stay as national team-manager, he replied: "It would be a pity to waste all the effort and success of the last four years. But the important thing is to keep progressing and keep



improving the system – and that doesn't necessarily mean Menotti.

"The F.A. should draw up a short list of possible managers and then decide which man is the man to do the job properly. And as I see it, the 'job' means devoting a lot of time to the youngsters who are going to be the backbone of our team that's got to defend the World Cup in Spain in 1982."

OCTOBER: Menotti had begun the month with another visit to Germany where Cologne manager Hennes Weisweiler invited him to spend some time watching the West German Champions in training. "I was surprised to see the Germans trying to develop the sort of style that we'd been working on during our preparations for the World Cup." Apart from bitterly comparing Cologne's fine facilities with those of an average Argentinian First Division club, Menotti made a note of Herbert Neumann as a name to watch in the future.

He returned to Buenos Aires to face an angry reception from the directors of Argentinos Juniors – a club he had publicly used as an example of a typical, struggling First Division outfit. Significantly, his next job was to draw up a complete work programme for the national Youth and 'A' teams for 1979. Presenting his plans to the F.A., Menotti also suggested that the country should try to organise a world-wide Under-21 Championship in Buenos Aires, perhaps in 1980, with a view to giving young players added international experience before the

Above: Jorge Olguin is carried off the pitch by delirious fans after Argentina's triumph last June. Right: Osvaldo Ardiles now playing for Spurs.



1982 World Cup.

Simultaneously, Buenos Aires' richest club, River Plate, approached Menotti, offering him tempting terms to take over the team which had failed miserably in three competitions under the direction of former player Angel Labruna. River were also rumoured to be pressurising the F.A. not to renew Menotti's contract so that he'd be available to take the job. . .

NOVEMBER: "These kids are great! How can you not be enthusiastic when you're working with these lads? This has restored my faith in football – given me back my drive. . ." Menotti is back in his tracksuit preparing Argentina's Youth Team for the forthcoming South American Championships in Uruguay and the World Youth Championship in Japan. "You can't talk 'tactics' too much to these boys because you stand the risk of putting out that sacred flame of individual inspiration." By way of preparation, the 'boys' played a series of matches against strong adult opposition, and Menotti was delighted when they beat the Cosmos (Beckenbauer, Chinaglia and all) 2-1

in a sensational game. "Did you see that? Nine men in attack. Nine! Those boys didn't want to lose gracefully – they wanted to win!" Happy to be back in action, Menotti didn't realise that the trouble and controversy was only a month away. . .

DECEMBER: As well as continuing the preparation work with the Youth Team, Menotti was doing a nation-wide tour, giving a series of Press conferences in the provinces. In the meantime, offers were still arriving on his doormat, including a substantial one from San Lorenzo, and a four-year 'open cheque' proposition from Paris F.C. Menotti had, by this time, a fair idea of how much a 'World Champion' manager could be earning on the free market compared with the modest £14,000 a year that the F.A. were paying him. Menotti asked the F.A. for a signing-on fee of £50,000 plus a monthly salary of £4,000 – "less than the salaries that four or five clubs have offered me".

At Christmas comes the bombshell that shakes the nation. The F.A. has

£50,000 on his price tag and we'll cut you in with a percentage.' I don't want to be pressurised like that.

"I want to earn my money 'straight'. I want to be able to look myself in the eye in the shaving mirror. I want to stay in charge of the national team, but I want to do my job honourably, with a serious long-term programme and the right remuneration."

Reaction in Argentina was immediate. Several companies offered to make up the difference. Several provincial clubs offered to have a whip-round. Modestly-paid workers wrote, offering a percentage of their earnings. In the meantime, both Uruguay and Mexico asked Menotti to prepare their national teams for the 1982 World Cup, adding that the money was no problem.

"It saddens me that other countries can offer me this money while my own country can't. At the moment, I'm really confused. I'm receiving offers from all sides and I don't know which way to turn. It's bad enough that players like Kempes, Bertoni, Taranini and Ardiles have had to leave the country in order to earn decent money. Now, after all I've done to try and stop our top players going abroad, it would be ironical if I have to leave as well.

"I don't want to throw away four years of hard work, but on the other hand I don't want to do the job on the cheap. I've suffered in the last four years. I've aged a lot, not only physically, but mentally as well – yet I have the satisfaction of having done something for my country.

"You know what worries me most? That the national team will go back to the bad old ways. It makes me feel sick to realise that we're back to where we were four years ago. I just can't stomach the thought that the last four years have been a stupid waste of time."

César Luis Menotti saw in the New Year with his family at his house in Funes, near Rosario. Both he and the F.A. claimed to have said their last words, but the Argentinian people were adamant that the last word hadn't been spoken. Only six months had passed since that World Cup dream was realised, and the people were convinced that without Menotti that dream simply cannot be renewed.

The will-he won't-he stay on question was finally resolved when the Argentina F.A. made Menotti an offer he didn't want to refuse. "I'm not after becoming a millionaire. I just want a decent rate of pay for the job."

The chain-smoking Menotti signed a new contract that takes him up to the 1982 World Cup and his immediate task was to select a squad for the European tour that gets under way in the very near future.

"I don't want to call upon those players with European clubs. This is an ideal opportunity to give some of the younger players a chance."

Argentina play Holland in Switzerland to celebrate FIFA's 75th anniversary, but to call it a World Cup Replay is absurd.

The match is nothing more than the first step to building Menotti's team to retain the World Cup in three years time, and with El Flaco (the thin one) leading them, Argentina must stand an excellent chance of further success.

GRAHAM TURNER

The story of Nottingham Forest over the past few years represents one of the most astonishing transformations of a club in Football League history.

For years post-war fans had nothing to cheer except the club's victory in the 1959 F.A. Cup Final. Roy Dwight and Tommy Wilson had remained top of the town's unofficial popularity poll for years on the strength of their crucial Cup-winning goals in Forest's 2-1 Wembley triumph over Luton Town.

There had been other eras when Forest had won sterling silver for the trophy cabinet at the City Ground, but fans needed long memories to recall those moments in the Midlands.

Then Brian Clough, football's most controversial manager, arrived in January, 1975 and proceeded to roll back the dark clouds of mediocrity that had shrouded the club for much of its 114-year history.

It was clear from the start that his was unlikely to be an ordinary regime. Clough's reign opened with a shock F.A. Cup replay win at Tottenham when Neil Martin headed the only goal of the game.

He inherited a club that had languished in the middle or lower reaches of the Second Division for several seasons and were playing before paltry gates.

The average home attendance was just 10,000, 30,000 less than the ground capacity. Clough's arrival brought an immediate response. Seventeen thousand fans filed through the turnstiles for Clough's debut match in charge, a League game against Orient on January 18, 1975. A new wave of optimism swept through the club – and in 1978-79 Forest were averaging 30,000.

Clough wasted no time in



recruiting players who would bring him success. Nor did he take long to team-up again with his trusty lieutenant Peter Taylor. They had worked together as a managerial duo at Hartlepool United, then at Derby, where they clinched the First Division Championship in 1972, and then at Brighton. Taylor became manager at the Goldstone Ground when Clough took his abortive trip to Leeds United, but they were back together again, at Forest, in the summer of 1977.

Forest won promotion from the Second Division in 1976-77. The following season they achieved the remarkable First Division title and League Cup "double", and in claiming the Championship won a place in the European Cup in 1978-79.

THE RISE OF NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Their League Cup success was almost as astonishing as their performances in the Championship. They beat Liverpool 1-0 in a replayed Final at Old Trafford, without the nucleus of their Championship winning side, Peter Shilton, Archie Gemmill and David Needham, who were Cup-tied, and John McGovern and Colin Barrett injured.

Their "double" performance was acclaimed throughout the soccer world – and awards in recognition of the players' achievements began to roll into the City Ground.

Clough was named "Manager of the Year" in 1978 by the Bell's Scotch Whisky Football Managers Award panel. He became only the second manager to win the English First Division Championship with two different clubs, the first being the legendary Herbert Chapman, of Huddersfield Town and Arsenal.

Peter Shilton, who was unable to command a permanent place in England's goal, became the PFA's "Player of the Year", and John McGovern, Forest's captain, was one of six "Players of the Year" chosen by Rothmans.

McGovern's nomination and success since serves as a considerable source of inspiration to any youngster wishing to play professional football. McGovern looks so much like that skinny lad



Top of page: Forest open their scoring in the 1959 F.A. Cup Final v. Luton Town.

Left: Parading the Championship and League Cup trophies in May, 1978.

who had sand kicked in his face, whilst his bronzed and brawny "friend" went off with the pretty girl, but many teams have learned to their cost not to underestimate the midfielder's shrewd soccer brain, phenomenal fitness and all-round skill.

Forest's elevation from Second Division obscurity has been accomplished with a brand of football masterminded by Clough and orchestrated by Taylor that is as dynamic in football as Tate was to Lyle in the sugar industry, Morecambe to Wise in entertainment, and Rolls to Royce in the motor trade. One could not work without the other. Together they spell perfection.

Few doubted that Forest's brand of stylish, attacking football would succeed in the First Division after they won promotion from the Second Division in third place behind Wolverhampton Wanderers and Chelsea. But would the players simply hold a safe position in the table or win some titles?

No Chances

Manager Clough was restless. Forest were good, but not good enough. So, while less forthright managers would have given a promotion-winning side the benefit of an extended trial in the hope they would make the grade, Clough took no chances, moving swiftly and stealthily into the transfer market to build a team that is now one of the best club sides in the world.

Brian Clough brought together a mix of strength, allied to aggression, skill, and perception, all shaken-up with total confidence, enthusiasm and commitment.

He has given to Forest what Ron Greenwood has injected into English football at international level. Both men give free reign to skill at the expense of method, and it is no coincidence that they are masterminding the rejuvenation of English football.

Capture

Clough's astuteness in the transfer market was symbolised best by his capture of Scottish international Kenny Burns from Birmingham City. Burns had a reputation for scoring goals and losing his temper. Clough converted him to a world-class sweeper with a passive tongue. Magic.

England international goalkeeper Peter Shilton, the massive last line in the Stoke City defence, was transferred for £270,000 in September, 1977. Derby's Scottish international midfielder Archie Gemmill was purchased in the same month, and big Dave Needham was bought at a bargain price of £150,000 from Q.P.R. in December, 1977.

Now, the "new look" Forest had experience and style. The arrivals stimulated greater effort from home-bred talent such as John Robertson, who won Scottish recognition, Tony Woodcock and Viv Anderson, both of whom won England international status after Clough's arrival. To Anderson the supreme accolade of becoming the first black man to play for England; to Robertson and Woodcock the satisfaction of knowing they help fill



Left: Archie Gemmill (centre) clears a Liverpool attack during their European Cup first-leg tie at the City Ground this season. Below: Peter Taylor (below left) rejoined Brian Clough during the summer of 1977.



grounds wherever they play.

One player, a striker, was needed as the final piece to complete Brian Clough's jigsaw. The player Clough wanted was Birmingham's England forward Trevor Francis. But they were asking £1 million!

Lesser men than Clough would have frozen at the price. The thought of such a transaction during Alan Brown's reign as Forest manager before Clough would have struck fear in directors' hearts.

But the manager with the Midas touch was not to be denied. He got his man on Friday, February 9, 1979, to shatter the British transfer record.

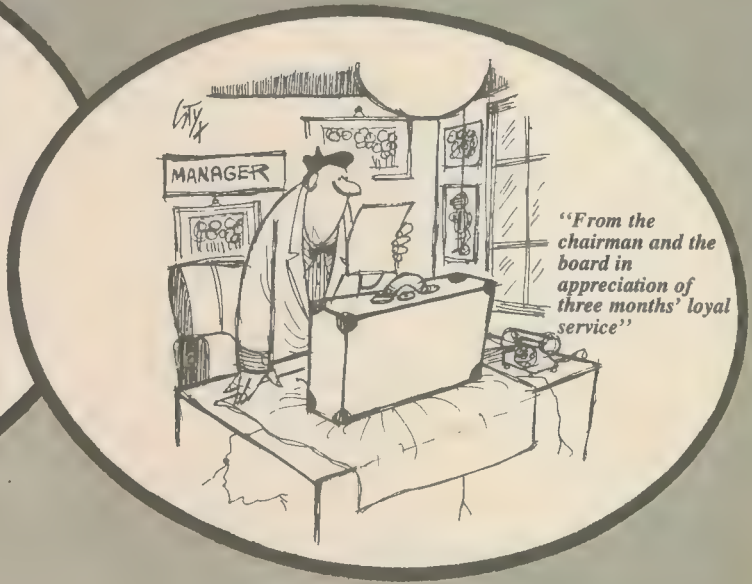
Forest's appearance in this season's European Cup and their triumph over Southampton in the 1979 League Cup Final heralds the dawn of what promises to be the most exciting chapter in the club's history.

There are many who believe that Forest can do for the 1980's what Arsenal did for British football in the Thirties; Newcastle and Manchester United in the Fifties; Spurs and Manchester United again in the Sixties; and Liverpool in the Seventies.

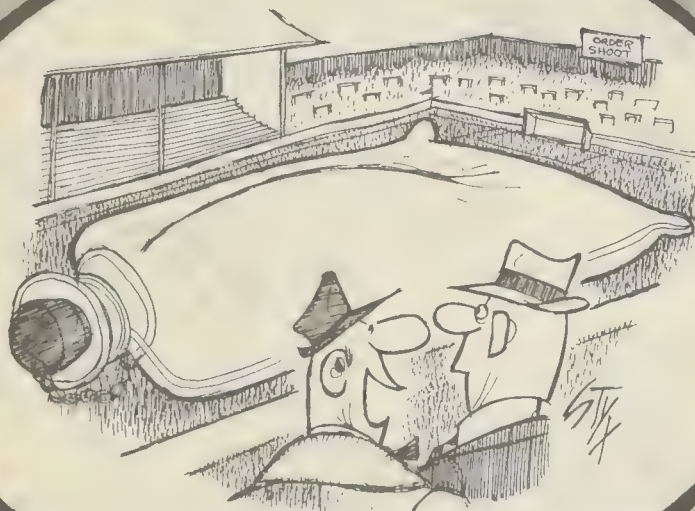
With Brian Clough at the helm anything is possible. . .



MANAGER



MIRTH



"It's my idea - to beat the winter weather"



"I sometimes feel our player-manager is getting too old"



"I'm thinking of having him transferred to another club"



"I was right in the middle of my weekly hair-do when I suddenly remembered the special training session, boss"



"Just in case you're presented with the ball in front of an open goal again"



"Remember - what I expect from a first class English club like ours is first class English football . . . even if you are all Scots"

CLIFF-HANGERS

Dramatic nail-biting finishes to the Championship race

The battle for the League Championship during this season has been a long, tough struggle, with Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Everton, West Bromwich Albion and Arsenal still fighting it out to a nail-biting finish.

Not that there has ever been an easy path to the title, particularly during the last few years when cliff-hanging finishes to a long season have been the rule rather than the exception.

Let us take a glance back at some of the most exciting climaxes to the annual race for the Championship.

The 1949-50 season ended with only an eight points difference between the leading nine clubs. For most of the campaign Manchester United led the race for the title, having finished as runners-up in each of the previous three seasons.

Close behind them for most of the campaign were the 1949 Champions, Portsmouth. Then came the run-in over the final few weeks. United took only six points from their last ten games and dropped away.

Meanwhile Portsmouth were in terrific form gaining 17 points from their last 11 games. So were Wolves who finished the season with 16 points in their final ten matches. One more point would have given them the title.

As it was Pompey and Wolves each finished with 53 points and Portsmouth took the honours for the second successive season by a superior goal average of .396. It couldn't have been closer! Or could it?

In 1952-53 the Championship

could have gone to any one of seven clubs, each of whom led the race for a short spell during the last few weeks of the season.

Among them were Preston North End, with Tommy Docherty in terrific form, Wolves, West Brom and Arsenal. Eventually, North End finished their programme in top place but Arsenal still had one game to play, against Burnley at Highbury.

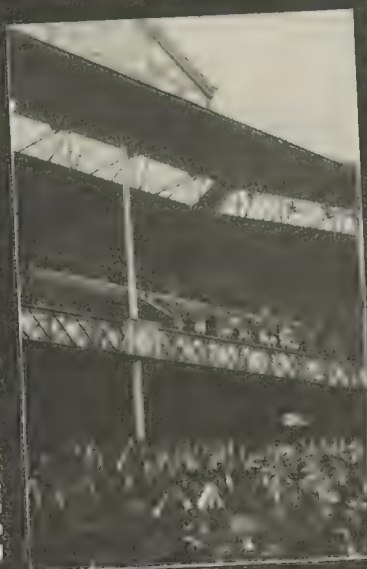
It took place on Cup Final eve on a rain-soaked pitch. The Gunners knew that nothing less than a victory would put them level with Preston on 54 points with goal average deciding the title winners.

Led by veteran Joe Mercer the Highbury wonders beat Burnley 3-2 and earned the Championship honours for a record seventh time—but only by a better goal average of .115. Phew, what a nail-biting finish!

Burnley were the leading actors in two other dramatic last ditch cliff-hangers. The first of these was the final act of the 1959-60 season, one the most tense, nerve-tingling Championship races in the League's long history. Just before Christmas Spurs led the field and were playing so well under skipper Danny Blanchflower that they became firm favourites for the title.

With eight games still to play Spurs held a three-point lead over Wolves and four over Burnley. Then began the nail-biting suspense.

Spurs lost their form, and four vital games. Wolves stepped up to the leader's position but Burnley were still in contention although their chances



Everton fans cheer their Championship heroes of 1962-63.

looked slim.

Four of their last five games were away fixtures, a seemingly impossible task... but not to skipper Jimmy Adamson and his fighters. Everything depended on the final game—away at Maine Road.

When the match began the Turf Moor lads were in second place, one point behind Wolves. Only victory would take the trophy to Burnley. Even one point would be no good because of Wolves' magnificent goal average.

What a nail-biter that was. Wee Brian Pilkington scored Burnley's first goal; City equalised, but Eng-

land centre-forward Ray Pointer ripped in a glorious shot just before the interval.

The second-half brought the packed crowd to their feet as City stormed around the Burnley goal, but Jimmy Adamson and his fellow defenders played like heroes and the final whistle came without further score. Burnley were Champions, one point clear of Wolves—and surely no team more deserved the honour.

The following season Burnley narrowly failed to hold on to the Championship, but in 1961-62 they were again one of the finest teams in the League.

In early September they topped the League table and maintained their position until the closing stages. Incidentally, they also fought their way to a place in the Cup Final, along with their title seeking rivals Spurs.

Alas, the Burnley lads, still led by Jimmy Adamson, chosen 1962 Footballer of the Year, suddenly began to drop points both at home and away and into the picture sprang the "no hoppers" of early season, Ipswich Town.

By mid-March they had cut Burnley's lead to a mere one point. Yet the fight was not over.

Spurs and Everton kept up the challenge to the leaders. Here was another exciting cliff-hanger, and the prizes were not settled until the final day of the season.

Burnley were held to a draw at Turf Moor by Chelsea, already doomed to relegation, but Ipswich pulled off a tremendous triumph at home against Aston Villa to complete their first season in the First Division—as undis-





puted Champions. Burnley, Spurs and Everton filled the next three positions.

Next season, 1962-63, found Everton, Spurs and Burnley once more leading the race to the coveted title. Eventually, Everton took the top prize with a six points lead over Spurs but if that sounds like a walk-over it was nothing of the sort. With five matches still to go it was anybody's Championship.

Everton clinched it with nine points from those final five matches, which meant they had obtained 20 points from 12 successive games, a truly magnificent run in to the title.

The climax to the 1963-64 season was virtually a battle between the two great Merseyside rivals, Liverpool and Everton, with Manchester United and Spurs always threatening to overthrow them.

But Liverpool began their all-out last lap during the Easter pro-

Preston lost the 1952-53 title by .115 of a goal.

gramme when they won both their matches against Spurs and with another victory over Leicester City completed their holiday programme with six points to take the lead over Everton by one point.

They never lost it despite all the threats of their immediate rivals and a brilliant last day 5-0 win over Arsenal took the Championship to Anfield for the first time since 1947.

There has seldom been a more thrilling finish to any season than in 1964-65. During the Easter programme Manchester United, Leeds United and Chelsea all topped the table on different days, and it was this trio who fought it out to the last whistle of the season.

Incidentally, all three also reached the Semi-Finals of the Cup, and although Leeds were the

only survivors to go through to Wembley they failed to win either Cup or Championship.

Yet the run-in to the Championship honours could not have been closer. Leeds were first to complete their programme with 61 points to put them in the lead. But Manchester United had one game left and they won it against Arsenal, to complete a last ditch run of six successive victories.

So Sir Matt Busby's United, with Bobby Charlton, George Best, Denis Law and Co., finished with 61 points, the same as Leeds United. It took the Championship Cup to Old Trafford - by .69 of a goal! That really was a nail-biter.

We move now to 1970-71 when the destination of the League title was not settled until the last match of the season - and what a season.

By the end of January Leeds United looked odds-on for the Championship and for the League and Cup "double". Unfortunately, Colchester United ruined their Cup hopes, but their all-out pursuit of the Championship continued.

Derby Drama

Meanwhile, however, Arsenal were chasing them hard. Leeds were first to complete their fixtures and remained in first place with 64 points. Arsenal still had one game to play - at Tottenham.

So five days before meeting Liverpool at Wembley The Gunners travelled the few miles to White Hart Lane knowing that only outright victory, or a goalless draw would give them the chance of achieving the "double".

What a story-book finish to any season. Before a fanatical crowd, with thousands of fans locked out, Spurs and Arsenal fought out "the most dramatic match of the season".

Not until two minutes from the end was the only goal scored - by Ray Kennedy. Arsenal were League Champions by one point over Leeds, and by the end of that

history-making week they had attained their ambition, the League and Cup "double". Was there ever a more cliff-hanging finish to a season?

Just 12 months later the same question might have been asked for the 1971-72 season ended so dramatically that it seemed more like fiction than reality.

During the final weeks of that amazing season the Championship could have gone to any one of four clubs - Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester City or Derby County. There was only a free-kick between them.

Then the Maine Road lads suddenly slipped but when Leeds United lined up for the Cup Final against Arsenal it looked odds on that they would emulate The Gunners and take both trophies. They needed just one point in their final League game to win the Championship.

Derby County had completed their fixtures and led the race with 58 points, followed by Leeds with 57 and Liverpool with 56.

Leeds beat Arsenal at Wembley and two days later had to meet Wolves at Molineux. United came unstuck, losing 2-1, while Liverpool could only manage a goalless draw at Highbury in their final encounter.

To add to the story book ending Brian Clough and his Derby lads had gone to Spain for a well-earned holiday and heard the result of the matches that made them League Champions over the phone. That surely was the most dramatic end to any season?

Ten Day Wait

Liverpool and Wolves topped the bill in the tensely exciting finish to the 1975-76 season. Queens Park Rangers completed their programme with 59 points at the top of the table. Only one club could rob them of their first ever League Championship and that was Liverpool.

The Londoners had to wait ten days for the Merseysiders to bring them delight or dejection. Liverpool's last game was at Molineux - and The Reds kept even their own fans in suspense until 15 minutes from the end.

Wolves took the lead early on and held it for 75 minutes. Then came that devastating finale to the season - three goals by Kevin Keegan, John Toshack and Ray Kennedy.

Gone are the days when the destination of the League Championship was decided long before the final lap of the eight months' marathon, with one side outstanding and the remainder also-rans. In these days nail-biting finishes are the rule rather than the exception. Long may it be so. Football thrives on cliff-hanging situations.



Above: Liverpool (dark shirts) beat Wolves 3-1 in May, 1976 to pip Q.P.R.

Left: In May, 1971 Spurs (white shirts) and Arsenal fought a dramatic derby. The Gunners won thanks to a late, late goal - and achieved the Double.

With so many Scots in their ranks, it's no wonder Manchester United are often called MACchester United! Here are four of The Reds' tartan stars . . . Joe Jordan, Gordon McQueen, Lou Macari and Martin Buchan.



**ALAN
DEVONSHIRE
West Ham**



Derek Dougan posted a transfer request to Blackburn on the eve of the 1960 F.A. Cup Final.



Flamboyant ...
sometimes
outrageous ...
often annoying. Yet
soccer is richer for
its ...

country they would be knocking the door down.

"I know we haven't scored a lot of goals this season but that is what we bought Trevor Francis for. We have to pay for everything here from people who come through the turnstiles."

Clough gave the fans a verbal lashing in February after Forest's 1-0 F.A. Cup defeat by Arsenal before a crowd of 35,000; 7,000 fewer than the ground's capacity.

Clough is the most unpredictable of English football's managers. He often endears himself to journalists after Forest have suffered a rare defeat, yet avoids them like the plague if Forest have won.

Every so often a sport produces a player who fires the public's imagination wherever he appears through the sheer magic and drawing power of his personality.

If he also harnesses silken skills to his larger-than-life character then his progress in sport knows no frontiers. He becomes compulsive entertainment. Big box office. One flash of unpremeditated exhibitionism at the height of a deadly serious encounter is guaranteed to send his adoring supporters on the terraces into raptures.

Occasionally, a superstar transcends the entire field of sport. Muhammad Ali is such a man. His vanguard of worshippers are drawn not only from a fervent boxing fraternity but right across the vast spectrum of world sport.

All sports have their individual characters. Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson became cricket's most controversial players when they were bowling "bouncers" for Australia at the heads of English batsmen.

Gareth Edwards, Phil Bennett, JPR Williams and Gerald Davies played to packed crowds whenever the famous quartet pulled on the scarlet jerseys of the Welsh rugby team.

Steve Ovett, Juantorena and Henry Rono can swell box office takings at athletics grounds even though most of their runs take less time than it takes the average householder to get from the front door to the corner shop.

Barry Sheene is compulsive viewing bent low across the fuel tank of his speeding motorbike, bearing his famous "Number 7". James Hunt woos motor racing fans with film-star good looks allied to supreme driving skills.

John Conteh, Britain's former World Light-Heavyweight Champion, always punches before capacity audiences. The Liverpool born boxer wins their approval through the force of his personality outside the ring as much as his sublime skills inside the ropes.

David Lloyd, Buster Mottram and Virginia Wade pack in tennis

Colourful, Controversial Characters

followers wherever they play. Horse racing has Lester Piggott; show jumping Harvey Smith; and gymnastics has Nadia Comaneci, the Rumanian who swept all before her at the Montreal Olympics in 1976.

British soccer, too, has an abundance of colourful players and administrators, who brighten an occasion whenever they appear through the winter's gloom. The sport is richer for their presence. They can excite, they often annoy, but they are rarely ignored.

Brian Clough, highly successful manager of Nottingham Forest, wins friends and enemies in equal amounts whenever he opens his mouth. If ever the Middlesbrough-born manager decides to publish a "little red book" of his innermost thoughts, it will be a best-seller before the gum had dried on the binding.

Who but Cloughie would instruct

a player to take his hands out of his pockets at an official presentation ceremony with television cameras in attendance? It happened when Clough presented Trevor Francis with the Midlands "Player of the Year" award. An embarrassed Francis has since become Clough's bosom-pal since he signed the England striker for £1 million this season.

Who but Clough would take a holiday with his family in the middle of a soccer season? It is akin to the Chancellor of the Exchequer having a breather in the build-up to a Budget. But Clough has made a habit of jetting-off to the sun and surf, while Britain freezes and his players slog through the routine of training and Saturday and mid-week matches. If ever the question is raised, Clough smiles and points out that he is hardly abandoning ship with a man of Peter Taylor's (Forest assistant-manager) stature left to man the bridge at the City Ground.

While other managers try to attract fans through the gates with platitudes, the Forest manager prefers another approach. He bullies them, castigating the Nottinghamshire public for not filling his ground.

"I don't know whether they have got it too good or whether they are just thick, football-wise. But the fans are not coming into the ground. Anywhere else in the

At various stages this season he has banned television cameras and radio journalists from the City Ground. The soccer world awaited Trevor Francis's debut for Forest before a capacity audience. What happened? The £1 million striker was given a run-out in Forest's "A" team on a pitch that looked as if it had been carved from a clearing in Sherwood Forest.

Does Clough possess a Midas touch, or a madman's? Like him or loathe him, most people, even his fiercest critics, give Cloughie the benefit of possessing one of the sharpest brains in British football.

Stan Bowles, Queens Park Rangers' midfield star, is another colourful character. Bowles has given more "V" signs to referees than Winston Churchill gave his troops in the last War. He has probably made more money – and lost more – on the horses and dogs than most men earn in five years on the factory floor. He has left his wife and has been pictured with pretty girls in various stages of undress across the pages of the Sunday papers. He carries a reputation for being an out and out rebel. No player in Britain is guaranteed to raise the hackles on a referee's neck faster than Stan Bowles.

But he wins the approval of the more knowledgeable fans with his breathtaking skills, which more than compensate for any loss of face

between Saturdays.

He complained this season that England managers paid more attention to players' private lives than they did their playing performances. This had cost him England caps, complained Bowles, who has pulled on an England shirt only five times.

Tommy Docherty, manager at Derby County, inspires more love-hate attention than an outspoken politician. His boots did most of his talking when he played with distinction for Scotland, Preston, Chelsea, and Arsenal, but since stepping into management, first at Chelsea, and then with a string of clubs, including Manchester United, Queens Park Rangers, Aston Villa, Rotherham, and the Scottish international side, he has provoked controversy wherever he has landed.

Branded a liar after bringing a libel action against a player and then having to drop his accusation when the case was going against him, the Doc bounced back with renewed vigour and won a vote of confidence from the Derby board.

Docherty incurred the wrath of Manchester United when he fell in love with the wife of the club's physiotherapist. The affair became public knowledge and Docherty had to leave the manager's chair at Old Trafford.

He moved to Derby where his dealings in the transfer market have also been colourful. He has traded players at the Baseball Ground almost as fast as a wholesale butcher buys meat.

For sheer slapstick comedy goalkeeper John Burridge takes some beating. His selection for England's Under-21 team this season brought a smile to his face for Burridge is 27. But his blushes were spared when the game against Holland was postponed.

His career was rescued by Palace's boss Terry Venables after Aston Villa had loaned Burridge to Southend. He breezed through the gates at Selhurst Park as a replacement for Tony Burns in the 1977-78 season.

Burridge's favourite party piece is to do cartwheels across the muddy pitch before a game. A fitness fanatic - he has a gymnasium at home - he will roll his 12-stone frame into the most acrobatic contortions while his teammates

click their heels in the dressing room before a game. The crowd love it.

Malcolm Allison has monopolised newspaper headlines, both back and front page, for years. He hardly riveted Fleet Street's attention as a defender at West Ham, but since entering the coaching and management field he has built himself a Hollywood-style image.

He wore a wide brimmed Fedora hat in leading Crystal Palace to the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Cup in 1975-76. It became a symbol of Palace's most successful run in the competition. Its appearance before a game would encourage hisses of derision from rival fans and attract a posse of photographers. A Castro-style Havana cigar would inevitably jut provocatively from

through the flamboyance of his Cockney character than he ever did through the quality of his football for the Republic of Ireland, Watford, Orient, Queens Park Rangers, Arsenal and Aldershot.

It was typical of the breezy Mancini that he should offer his playing services to Fulham for nothing at the start of the 1978-79 season. He has worn a Fulham reserves shirt and not drawn a penny in wages from a club struggling financially.

Derek Dougan never did anything by halves either. The former PFA chairman fought a pitched battle as manager of Kettering Town for his club to carry advertising on their shirts.

He once shaved his hair Yul Brynner style at Blackburn Rovers. The Ewood fans loved it - and goals galore flowed from the 6ft 3in tall striker's boots both for Blackburn and Wolves, for whom he made a major impact, and for Northern Ireland in 43 appearances between 1958-73.

His most outrageous act was to post a transfer request to the Blackburn Rovers' board on the eve of the 1960 F.A. Cup Final against Wolves.

The Belfast-born Dougan protested that he was not 100 per cent fit for the Final and should not have been chosen for the side.

Far left: George Best and one of the many "birds" in his life. Left: Tommy Docherty inspires more love-hate attention than many politicians.

Below left: Malcolm Allison is always in the headlines.



Within minutes of the kick-off at Wembley his worst fears were realised. The injury was giving him pain - and he blamed himself for Blackburn's resultant defeat.

Arsenal's former England striker Malcolm Macdonald also shares skill and personality in equal measure. "Supermac" joined Newcastle United in the style befitting his expansive nature. He rode through the streets of the North-East town in a white Rolls-Royce.

George Best, the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland ace, who was banned by F.I.F.A. from playing football and is now a tax exile in the United States; Peter Osgood, who has resurrected his career in England this season with Chelsea; Alan Hudson, who has joined the soccer-drain to the States after a glittering career with Chelsea, Stoke, Arsenal and England; Alan Ball, who led Southampton to the League Cup Final this season after serving Everton, Arsenal and England with distinction for more than a decade; and Phil Thompson, Liverpool's chirpy centre-half, who is rarely lost for a word before, during or after a game, have all helped to enrich football with the force of their colourful characters.

Long may the personalities of English soccer reign, for with them around to brighten the game, life is never dull.

beneath the Fedora's brim, and Allison, more than anyone, mourns the poor tobacco crop in Cuba this year.

Big Mal has never done anything in half-measures. He rescued two distraught journalists faced with a huge bill for a meal in an exclusive Vienna night-club after Manchester City had won the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1969-70 by peeling Austrian currency from a bulging wallet.

"We mustn't let a small thing like this upset the celebrations," he grinned expansively.

His fast-living has drawn considerable public attention at Palace, Plymouth, and again back in Manchester, where he returned like some Messiah this season as coaching supremo at Maine Road.

An occasional brush with the law for minor offences; celebrated affairs with beautiful women; and controversial, but immensely shrewd appraisals of the British game, have combined to expand Big Mal's image.

Terry Mancini won more friends



Every now and again there is an uncontrollable, rampant wave of optimism that washes over the Scottish international scene and leaves the fans tingling with excitement and expectancy.

In 1974 Scotland were going to win the World Cup. They didn't. In 1978 Scotland were going to win the World Cup. They didn't.

Alas, the bright outlook for Scottish supporters is all too brief as the past has continually and cruelly proved. In the last decade five men have sat in the international hot-seat . . . Bobby Brown, Tommy Docherty, Willie Ormond, Ally MacLeod and now, of course, Jock Stein.

Their aim has been to get their country on the right track. For the first four named there were an awful lot of detours and dead ends. Jock Stein - The Big Man - is now firmly in charge and trying to give the team direction.

He came in when the challenge was at its sternest. The world was still having a giggle at Scotland's futile attempts to bring home the World Cup from Argentina in the summer. The promises of greatness from Ally MacLeod were buried under a tidal wave of mistakes.

The Scots have been too busy telling everyone who cared to listen that they were the greatest. They seemed to ignore that everyone else was advancing while they stood still!

Who but Scotland would have taken no notice of Austria in the latter stages of the World Cup when they knew they would be playing them shortly afterwards in a crucial European Championship match in Vienna?

Who but Scotland would select players in an almost haphazard fashion and not check properly with current form?

Who but Scotland would keep faith with a manager such as Ally MacLeod after such a colossal let-down in Argentina and then be surprised when he eventually turned round and told them he was leaving for a part-time First Division side?

Yes, the Scots will have to admit that they have made blunders of gigantic proportions in the past. Jock Stein is currently working on rectifying this 'Little Boy Lost' attitude.

Scotland's preparations for big events have been a bit of a joke. They have been surprised by players and tactics of rival countries and have been caught out by not doing their homework properly.

Peru, we were assured, were an average team of veterans. They were slow, lacked fitness and Teofilio Cubillas was a fat old man. Munante and Oblitas were two of the swiftest players in the World Cup and Cubillas didn't look like an old-age pensioner as he rifled two long-range efforts past the despairing Alan Rough as the Scots nose-dived into a 3-1 defeat.

Iran, we were told, were only in the World Cup Finals to make up the numbers. They still managed to give Scotland a start with an outrageous own goal and come back to take a point.

It seems, though, that there is light at the end of this tunnel of torture and torment for the Scots.

Scotland, in fact, are even looking ahead to the 1986 World Cup Finals

in Colombia! Not the 1982 series in Spain, but the Finals to take place in South America in 1986.

For a nation that had difficulty in the past of planning from one week to another that is an enormous step in the right direction. Can Scotland be getting it right at last?

Will we hear no more of the stories like one of the selectors taking a trip to Highbury to watch Arsenal and then coming back saying he had seen a player who might be good enough to play for Scotland? The name of the player? Bob McNab, who was England's current left-back at the time!

Will we hear no more of the stories like Roddie MacDonald, of Celtic, being chosen for the now-defunct Under-23 team when, in fact, it should have been another MacDonald - Iain, who was then with St. Johnstone, but is now with Carlisle? Someone, apparently, got their Macs mixed up!

Scotland are going back to the beginning again. When Stein agreed to leave Leeds after only 44 days it became a whole new ball game.

positively bristles with energy, is another who will surely take the trail that eventually leads to fame and glory. His St. Mirren team-mate Frank McGarvey, so swift, so dangerous, is another for the future.

George Burley, Wark's Ipswich colleague, of course, must be on the verge of the big-time breakthrough and full-back is hardly a position where the Scots have talent in abundance. Sandy Jardine, of Rangers, and Celtic's Danny McGrain may not be around or playing to their peak form when the challenge of Spain arrives. If it arrives!

Frankie Gray, Leeds' raiding left-back, should be at his very best while a replacement will probably have to be found for the extremely reliable Martin Buchan.

Indeed, names pop up from all angles. David Narey, of Dundee United, will be in there fighting for the honour and Aberdeen's Willie Miller will not allow himself to be passed over and become a forgotten man.

Eager and determined youngsters will be out to impress Jock Stein in the near future. The list is almost endless, the talent is certainly breathtaking.

Alan Rough will be 31 when the 1982 Finals arrive and will definitely be a better 'keeper with more big-time experience. However, he will still have rivals in the shape of Jim Stewart (Middlesbrough), Jim Blyth (Coventry), George Wood (Everton) and Billy Thomson (St. Mirren).

And the names go on. Andy Gray (Aston Villa), Ian Wallace (Coventry) and Derek Johnstone (Rangers) will be in the running for front line places and Davie Provan (Celtic) and Arthur Graham (Leeds United) could prove to be excellent wingers.

Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool magician, could settle into a more relaxed midfield role within the next three years and John Robertson, the Nottingham Forest No. 11, could also play more in this position.

Archie Gemmill (Nottingham Forest), Asa Hartford (Manchester

SCOTLAND'S FOR

If Scotland fail to reach the Finals of the European Championship, and they have never managed to get there before, then it is almost certain that they will go on a close season tour of South America in 1980. And, with an eye firmly on the future, Stein will probably want his young players to get a game in Colombia as part of that trip.

It's a pity that it will take a failure before Scotland can go to South America on their fact-finding mission, but, again, it is good to look ahead rather than constantly moan about what has gone wrong in the past.

Well, is there a reason, a *real* reason, for Scotland's mood of high optimism? With Stein guiding them the players are in good hands.

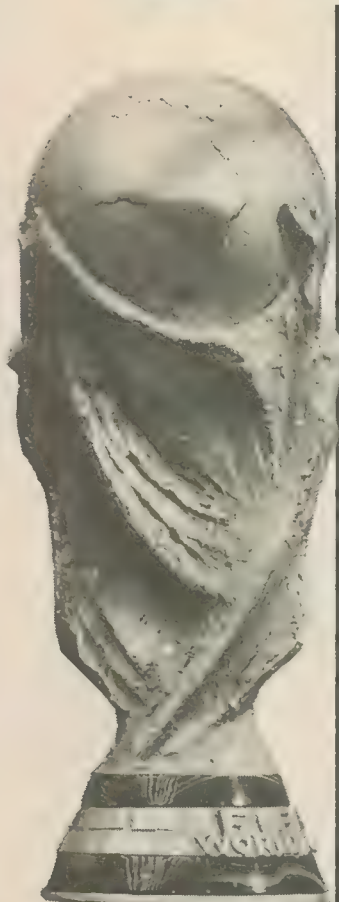
Which players are likely to play major roles in Stein's blueprint for the future? The Scotland boss will have his own ideas, of course, but there are some names that immediately spring to mind.

Let's take a look at the 1982 World Cup first. The Scots have been Britain's only representatives in the past two World Cup Finals and have been eliminated twice from their four-team qualifying sections on goal difference. They are out to make certain of a place in Spain, but, hopefully, it will be third time lucky when it comes to getting their sums right.

Alan Hansen, smooth and cultured, will certainly make a huge impact on the international scene and there is a place for him in this side.

John Wark, possessor of the pulverising shot, would have played against Belgium in February at Hampden if the big match hadn't been wiped out by the atrocious conditions. The hard-hitting Ipswich star can bring power shooting back to the Scottish line-up and he knows his time will come.

Tony Fitzpatrick, a player who



Above: Alan Rough will be a better 'keeper by 1982. Right: Leeds defender Frankie Gray should play a vital role in Scotland's future.

City) and Bruce Rioch (Derby) will not be around in the battle for midfield, but Daiglish, Robertson and Graeme Souness will have competitors in Roy Aitken and Tommy Burns (Celtic), Bobby Russell (Rangers), Eamonn Bannon (Chelsea) and Graeme Payne (Dundee United).

Scotland has always managed to unearth precious jewels of rare soccer talent, but what have they ever done on a big-time basis? Okay, they may have been unlucky when they were eliminated from the 1974 World Cup after beating Zaire and drawing with Yugoslavia and Brazil.

But it was back to the drawing board, heads down and your starter for ten when they played their first match at Hampden after returning from near success and West Germany.

That game was against Spain in the European Championship and a huge audience turned out on a bitterly cold November night and the gods were laughing down from the leaden skies as the Scots slipped

and slithered their way through a comedy of errors and eventually lost 2-1.

Showing their unpredictability, they almost won the return match against their Spanish opponents. They scored in the first minute through a diving header from Joe Jordan, but eventually had to settle for a draw. Spain emerged as the winners from the group which also included Rumania and Denmark.

It's quite difficult to realise or understand why a nation that has produced supreme players of the calibre of Denis Law, Jim Baxter, Dave Mackay, Jimmy Johnstone, Willie Henderson, Billy McNeill, Pat Crerand, Tommy Gemmell, John Greig, Charlie Cooke and many, many others have never made a consistent hit on the international front.

Let's face it. After the Argentina debacle the name of Scotland will hardly send shivers down the spines of terrified opponents. Basically, Austria toyed with the Scots for an hour in their European Championship match in Vienna and

were leading 3-0 before their misplaced over-confidence cost them two goals.

So, Stein has a big job on his hands. However, the former Celtic supremo has the gift of forgetting the past, concentrating on the present while looking to the future.

And what about Colombia in 1986?

An awful lot will obviously happen before then. New faces, probably still at school at the moment, will arrive and it can only be hoped that they will have a solid foundation upon which to build their own international reputations.

As part of their preparations for '86, Scotland will be taking an Under-17 team to compete in a tournament in Italy later in the year and this again is a new and welcome venture. There is a new upsurge of interest in the team.

Can Scotland realise their potential and keep their promise? Jock Stein will try everything he knows to come up with an acceptable answer to that question.

If he can't do it, then who can?



WORLD CUP PLANS 1986!



Top of page: Liverpool's Alan Hansen.
Above: St. Mirren skipper Tony Fitzpatrick.
Right: Scotland boss Jock Stein.
Below: Danny McGrain (all white) in action
against Yugoslavia in 1974.



Crooks "steals" the headlines at Stoke

This season's Second Division promotion battle has been a very tight affair since the campaign kicked-off back in August.

Stoke City, Brighton, West Ham and Crystal Palace plus the likes of Sunderland and Fulham have been fighting for three places that would guarantee them a shot of First Division soccer next term.

Stoke have been playing some fluent, attacking football and experienced players like Mike Doyle, Howard Kendall and Denis Smith coupled with exciting youngsters Sammy

Irvine and Paul Randall have made the club from The Potteries one of the favourites to clinch a coveted place.

But the pick of the bunch must be young Garth Crooks who this season has caught the imagination of everyone with some fine play and spectacular goals.

"Yes, I've been very pleased with my form this season," says Crooks.

His outstanding ability was rewarded when he was included in the England Under-21 squad for a friendly against Wales although he had to drop out because Stoke had an important League game that same evening.

"It was a great honour to be selected," says local-born Crooks. "And it was a disappointment to have to pull out but Stoke obviously come first."

Crooks joined an ever growing list of black players breaking into the international scene. SHOOT asked Crooks why this trend was.

"I believe we are now adapting ourselves better. And also the coaching has improved.

Abuse?

"Skill is encouraged so much more these days and the black players adapt themselves better after a particular setback. Whereas before they would drift away from the game if anything went against them."

When Crooks made his debut against Coventry in 1975-76 season, did he experience abuse aimed at his colour from players or fans?

Says Crooks: "I was very surprised because although I expected it I had only isolated cases and of course it's better now because there are so many of us making an impact in the Football League nowadays."

Crooks is big enough to take the stick thrown at him as he helps to take Alan Durban's men into the First Division.

"I think we have a great chance of making it this term," concludes Crooks. "If we don't we will only have ourselves to blame."

"I also think with the squad of players we have at The Victoria Ground, we will more than hold our own in the First Division."

And with the likeable Crooks producing the sort of form he has this season, we don't doubt him at all.

You can bet he'll be "stealing" a lot more headlines in the future.



Paul and Sammy Chapman (left) celebrating F.A. Cup victory v. Man. City.

Paul Maguire has helped make Gay Meadow happy

With transfer fees spiralling to staggering proportions, Shrewsbury must have snapped up one of the biggest bargains in years.

Paul Maguire, a 22-year-old striker from Glasgow, was signed by former manager Alan Durban for just £1,500.

And already Paul's goals - 13 up to the middle of March - have helped steer Shrewsbury to the top three of the Third Division and a fine chance of promotion.

Three years ago Shrewsbury's "kid for two farthings" was unknown.

"I was signed from Scottish club Kilburnie Ladeside in the Summer of 1976 after a scout had recommended me to Mr. Durban," he explained. "But I've been kicking a ball around since I was knee-high."

"My first League club was Dumbarton. I signed on schoolboy forms at 17, but that was only for a short stay."

Maguire feared that his size - 5ft 9ins, 10st 12lbs might be a handicap against big defences. But that worry has proved groundless.

In January, Paul scored one of the goals that beat Manchester City 2-0 in the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup.

It was his first taste of the big-time so... what was Paul's impression of First Division players and especially the confrontation he had with the present and possible future England centre-halves, Dave Watson and Paul Futcher?

"To be honest I wasn't impressed with City considering they have spent large amounts of money," he says.

"You wouldn't have believed they were from the First and we from the Third Division."

"I was up against Futcher and thought he lacked aggression. And he wasn't as sharp as I thought he'd be. Overall the

whole City team lacked urgency. "But looking back at the game it was an exciting moment especially for our supporters and I go as far as to say it was my best game of the season."

For the young Scot it almost looks like he's on cloud nine but he has dealt with the pressures with ease. It's been Town's best season since being formed in 1886.

He made his League debut, coming on as substitute in a 1-1 draw at Lincoln on his 20th birthday, and has since made over 100 first team appearances.

"I will remember my first game for the rest of my life. I was as nervous as hell," he says.

"But considering it was a big move for me I settled down to life South of the border fairly quickly."

"I moved in to digs and I was well looked after which didn't make me homesick at all. Whereas, many Scottish players have difficulties in settling in."

"But, my player-manager Graham Turner has encouraged and helped me enormously. When we are out on the pitch you wouldn't believe he was our manager. He jokes about and to me he's just one of the lads."

Shrewsbury owes much of their recent success to the hard work Graham Turner has put in.

He's brought in experienced players and has combined them with a few youngsters and that has resulted in an evenly-balanced team. Most of the team have been together for around three years.

They look favourites to be promoted, but are they good enough for the Second Division?

"We have a very small pool of players but I feel we have a good set-up to compete with the best."

That's good news for Shrewsbury heading for the Second Division for the first time in their history.

JOHN MITCHELL
Millwall



TOM FORSYTH
Rangers





ALEX SABELLA
Sheffield United

Last summer, Roma paid Genoa, in cash and players, the equivalent of £1.8 million for Roberto Pruzzo. Half was paid directly in cash. The other half consisted of two players, Bruno Conti and Musiello, plus a half share in a third, Odorizzi, all transferred to Genoa. Paolo Rossi, it's true, was valued at £3 million by Vicenza, but only half of that had to be paid to Juventus, for their 50% share in the player.

SHOOT: Which were your previous clubs?

PRUZZO: I've always been with Genoa, from the age of 16. And I've always played centre-forward.

SHOOT: Psychologically, what effect did this huge price have on you?

PRUZZO: I felt absolutely nothing. The Italian market is a bit special. Look at England. A player like Ardiles came for a relatively small price. Even Keegan cost Hamburger SV only half a million pounds. What they pay in Italy isn't a realistic price. The Italian transfer market is inflated. Three *miliardi*, £1.8 million doesn't mean a thing.

SHOOT: So it's been no burden on you?

PRUZZO: No burden at all. It can have some effect on you when things go wrong and the public and the press get on your back. No more than that. At Genoa, I had this price on my head for two or three years.

SHOOT: Did your new Roma colleagues resent the arrival of such an expensive player?

PRUZZO: Not in the least, because I knew nearly all of them from the Army and the international teams. I changed clubs, but practically didn't notice it.

SHOOT: Would you say this price, in fact, has helped you as a player?

PRUZZO: Certainly it's no advantage. People mark you very tightly; you're well-known. People in the street may know you, too. However, I don't think it's

such a terrible thing to be well-known!

SHOOT: Does being so highly paid (£50,000 a year) make much difference to your life style?

PRUZZO: Me, highly paid? I earn well. . . Things change a bit through force of circumstances, but one tries to live the same kind of life.

SHOOT: British players sometimes find it hard to come from an impoverished background then earn large sums of money; and you?

PRUZZO: I, too, come from quite a poor family, not all that poor – my father works on the roads – but if you earn well, then you try to handle your earnings well. Certainly it looks bad if an 18-year-old makes great sums of money while other people are out of work, but if you've got a head on your shoulders, you can live well enough although there are some players who earn and spend, earn and spend.

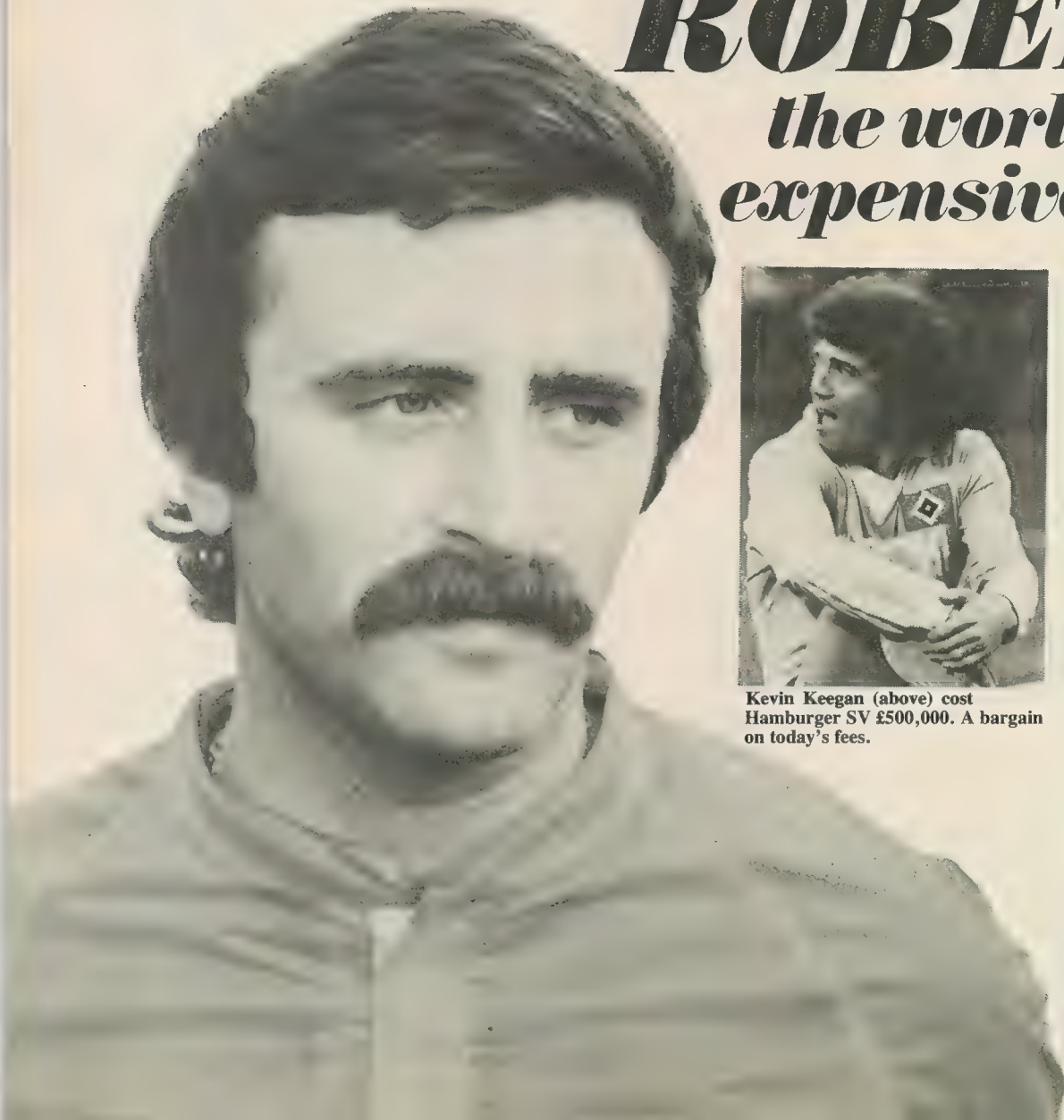
SHOOT: Have you always been good in the air?

PRUZZO: Heading has always been my strongest point. It's a gift, it developed naturally without



ROBERTO

the world's most expensive player



Kevin Keegan (above) cost Hamburger SV £500,000. A bargain on today's fees.

coaching.

SHOOT: Did you model yourself on anyone?

PRUZZO: Boninsegna. As a boy, I naturally went for the player who scored goals without being very tall, like myself. I'd say being tall doesn't matter very much. If you're really small then it's a disadvantage, but not if you're of normal height. Everything depends on timing, and, of course, jumping, but it's important to have the timing.

SHOOT: Did any coach especially help you?

PRUZZO: Luis Suarez, the Spanish inside-forward; more than anything else, watching him play, because everybody knew him. He was still pretty young at the time he coached Genoa's youth team, he hadn't long finished playing himself, and he used to join in the games with us. But it wasn't for long, because I soon moved up into the first team.

SHOOT: What are your views on English football?

PRUZZO: It's terrific, the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley! I like English football, I'd like to play in England, because I like all the movement, the commitment, everybody runs. If they get a knock, they get up, and the tackles are spectacular. A lot of British players are good. Dalglish, Ray Kennedy, then there's that centre-half called Watson. Emlyn Hughes is good, too, though perhaps he's not quite



Pruzzo's team Roma celebrate a winning goal against Juventus.



**SEPP
MAIER
(Bayern
Munich
& West
Germany)**

PRUZZO

what he was. You know that in Italy we have the hardest Championship in the world? We never win the Adidas Golden Boot Award. In England, games finish 4-2. They may finish 0-0, but people play to score goals, not to stop them being scored. Here it's a question of getting a result at all costs, and it's difficult for somebody who plays up front.

SHOOT: Would you say you still enjoy the game, then?

PRUZZO: Usually you start playing football because you like it; then it becomes a profession like any other, though there's still the will to play. If you don't like playing any more, that's it.

SHOOT: Is it harder to play in Rome than Genoa?

PRUZZO: Not at all. Genoa is a small place, but it's a difficult one, too. Rome is bigger, but things are really more or less the same. I'm looking for a house in Rome; I don't know it very well. I have just a few friends here; I wander about the city which I know so little, trying to get acquainted with it.

SHOOT: An Italian striker is often maltreated on the field. What's your philosophy; an eye for an eye, or do you try not to retaliate?

PRUZZO: My philosophy is to take as few knocks as possible! Unfortunately, in our football, there's not much chance of giving anything back without being spotted.

Interview by Toby Glanville

PERSONAL DETAILS

Car: Volkswagen Golf . . . my Mercedes was stolen when I went to Rome last July.

Married: To Brunella.

Children: None.

Hobbies: Cinema, staying at home, listening to records.

Favourite singer: Luciano Battisti.

Favourite films: Westerns . . . at least you know what you're going to see.

Favourite film star: Dustin Hoffman, even if he's not in a Western.

Favourite 1978 World Cup player: Mario Kempes of Argentina.

Favourite English club: Liverpool; they're shown a lot on television here.

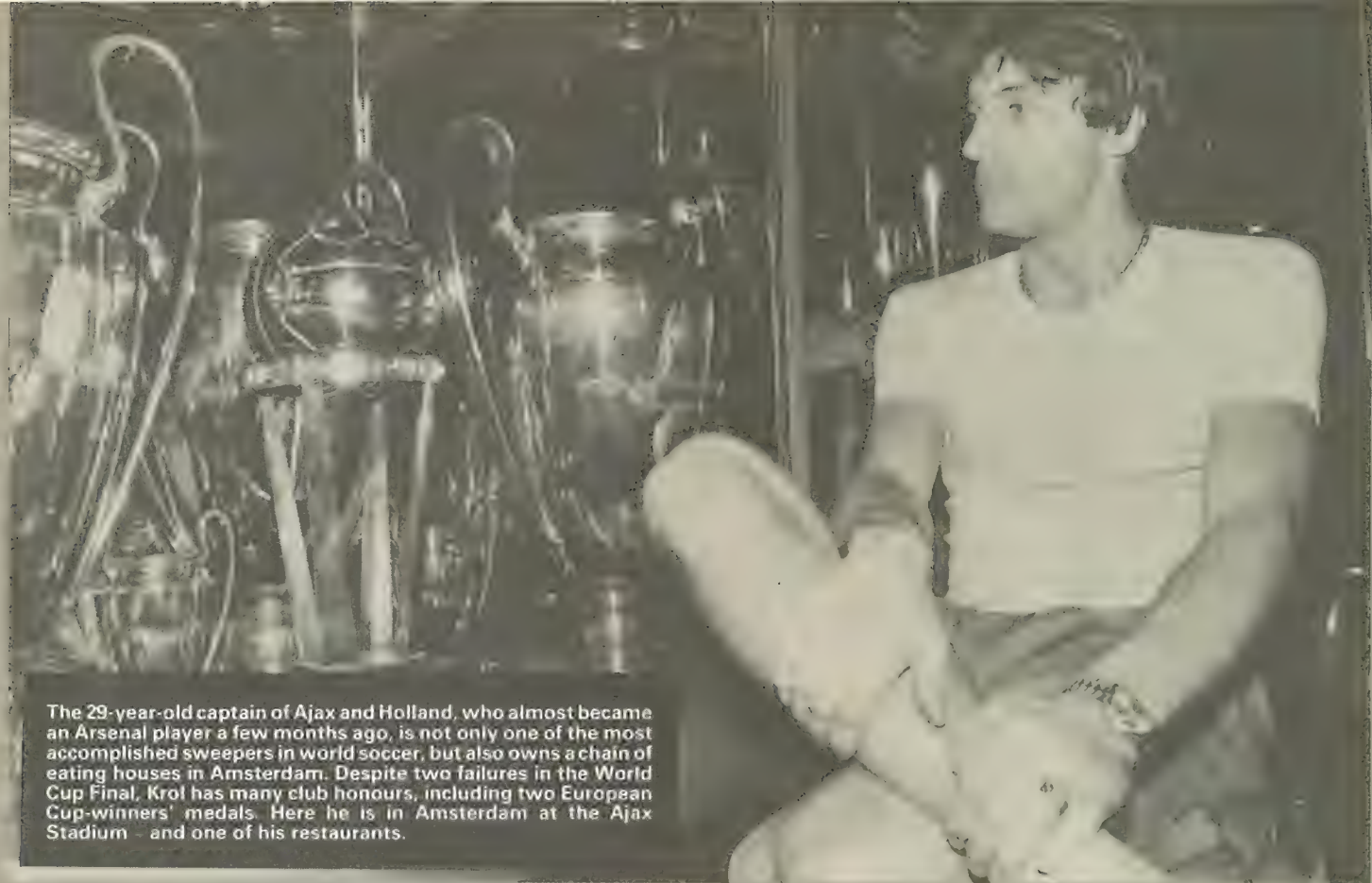
Italian international honours: Half a game in Florence against Turkey.

Ambitions: It's quite difficult to play for Italy just now; there are several good forwards. But I'd like to be top League scorer. Three years ago with Genoa I was second, so I've come quite near to it.

Date of birth: 1-4-1955, in Crocefiesse (Genoa).

Height: 5 feet 8 inches.

Weight: 11 st. 2 lb.



The 29-year-old captain of Ajax and Holland, who almost became an Arsenal player a few months ago, is not only one of the most accomplished sweepers in world soccer, but also owns a chain of eating houses in Amsterdam. Despite two failures in the World Cup Final, Krol has many club honours, including two European Cup-winners' medals. Here he is in Amsterdam at the Ajax Stadium - and one of his restaurants.

RUUD KROL Footballer and Businessman



Above: Beside the huge trophy cabinet at Ajax, thinking about the Cups he's helped the club to win ... or the ones that got away, perhaps?

Left: A game of billiards with team-mate Piet Schrijvers.

Right: Krol's businesses specialise in snacks. Here's the "baas" - the boss.

Below: Popcorn? Or a milk shake? Always with a smile.



DAVIE PROVAN

Celtic's "new Jimmy Johnstone"



Johnstone. They sighed for another right-wing touchline terror; they shook their heads at the efforts of the players who came in to play on the right.

There would never be another Jimmy Johnstone, they groaned. Celtic even changed tactics for some games and played without an orthodox right-winger. The fans, spoiled by the wizardry of the man they called Jinky, for obvious reasons, agreed among themselves that the days of glittering skills and flashing talents at outside-right were well and truly gone.

Johnny Doyle cost £90,000 from Ayr United, but the burden of replacing Johnstone weighed heavily on the player who sometimes tried too hard for his own good. He appeared too eager to please the fans and because of that enthusiasm he made mistakes.

But it looks as though Billy McNeill has solved that right-wing problem for Celtic fans. He paid out £125,000 for Davie Provan, of Kilmarnock, this season and after only a handful of performances from the youngster the fans were singing again.

"I wasn't aware of taking over from a player as great as Jimmy Johnstone," says Provan. "After all, Jimmy had left the club two or three years before I arrived."

"Moving to Celtic was a dream, in fact. If I had been left to arrange my own transfer it would have worked out the same way."

"I was very impressed in my dealings with Mr. McNeill. He knows what he wants and I will give him 100 per cent effort."

"It means a lot to me to play for a club as great as this. I get on well with the players, especially Johnny Doyle."

"The fans are great, too. Honestly I can't praise them enough. They have really made me feel at home. I had heard all about them, of course. In fact, I had played in front of them against Celtic and I know they appreciate good soccer. I suppose they must be rated alongside the Kop."

Provan, though, is not Jimmy Johnstone Mark Two. He is out to make his own name in the game. He is already well on the way to doing that by leaping across the chasm of part-time soccer in the First Division to full-time soccer in the Premier Division with grace and perception in the space of a few months.

Celtic fans are smiling again. When you see Provan in rip-roaring, daredevil action you can understand why.

How do you replace a legend? How do you make the fans forget a superstar? How do you put an end to all the comparisons that are inevitably made?

Kenny Dalglish left Celtic for Liverpool on a £440,000 transfer ticket two years ago in an effort to make the Anfield faithful forget all about Kevin Keegan.

When Dalglish shifted from Parkhead the team slumped badly for a variety of reasons. Celtic fans grumbled. They didn't talk of today's stars. They spoke about that magnificent side of spectacular showmen of the Sixties that became the first British club to conquer Europe.

The disgruntled Celtic fans spoke of Tommy Gemmell, Bobby Murdoch, Billy McNeill, Bertie Auld and John Hughes. But one name cropped up more than most. It was that of Jimmy

Rarely has a young player created so much controversy and made such an immediate impact on the Premier Division as Frank McGarvey, St. Mirren's alert attacker who is seldom out of the headlines.

McGarvey asked for a transfer last year after just one season in the Top Ten. That request brought frowns from some Love Street fans . . . and smiles from others. A figure in excess of £300,000 was slapped on the youngster's head and everyone sat back and waited for the deluge of managers on the look-out for a ready-made goalscorer.

PSV Eindhoven and Ajax, the Dutch giants, were apparently getting set to join in the race. Arsenal were clear favourites on the British front, but Aston Villa and Celtic were

far demand. He said: "All the speculation was obviously affecting my form."

"Now I'm out to prove that I am worth the sort of fee St. Mirren were looking for."

There can be little doubt that McGarvey, on form, is a dramatic striker with flair and a killer instinct in front of goal. He likes to run at defenders.

And he's brave. He has been likened to Kevin Keegan by the way he can turn so quickly and leave close markers well beaten in ability.

Actually, it is quite incredible that there are some St. Mirren fans who think the team can operate better without him. Certainly, like any other player, he can have his off days, but when things are going his way he

FRANK

McGARVEY

St. Mirren's "Kevin Keegan"

watching the situation very closely.

A representative of Ajax watched McGarvey in action against Aberdeen at Pittodrie. It was the Under-21 cap's opportunity to book himself a flight to Amsterdam and a place in the attack of the former European Cup kings.

What happened? McGarvey had a stinker and was substituted in the second-half. The Ajax spy returned, unimpressed. Then McGarvey was dropped into the reserves. Saints manager Jim Clunie said: "I'm interested only in players who want to play for the club."

Today McGarvey is still with St. Mirren after withdrawing his trans-

is a sparkling rainbow of colour, spreading alarm and despondency in the ranks of opposing rearguards.

"There was a lot of talk of me earning something like £15,000 per year with St. Mirren," says McGarvey.

"I think we would have to win the League and the Cup before I got a figure anywhere near that!"

The riches that big-time soccer can bring cannot be far away from McGarvey. He is a determined young man and he wants to show those clubs who hesitated when he was up for sale that they were wrong.

He also wants to prove to the fans that he is a plus-factor to any team in which he performs.



Frank McGarvey (stripes) holds off the challenge of Walter Kidd (Hearts).

AT HOME WITH **JOHN GIDMAN** *Aston Villa*



John's lovely wife Claire with Scouse the Labrador and little Rupert. Relaxing (right) with their favourite recording stars.



A fast car for a super sportsman (above). John and Claire make a great double act (far left). And proud parents (left) with baby son Patrick John who was born just before last Christmas.

Looking out over
Sutton Coldfield.



Queens Park Rangers' Don Shanks (hoops) and John Robertson of Nottingham Forest chase this loose ball.

TIDE HAS TURNED FOR PORTSMOUTH

Before and after the Second World War the club to support – the Liverpool or Manchester United of its day if you like – was Portsmouth.

Now that may seem a trifle strange to today's young soccer fan who has been brought up on glorious times for Anfield, Leeds, Nottingham and Manchester, but it's true that there wasn't a more popular club in the land in those days than Pompey, with average gates over 40,000.

Anyone worth his sea-salt down on the South Coast will still reel off the names of the great ones, Dickinson, Scouler, Froggatt, Reid, Harris, Flewin and Guthrie.

So after years of nothing but heartache and decay it's good to see Portsmouth reviving and bidding for promotion from the Fourth Division.

Throughout all their troubles – and these were so intense there was a grave danger of extinction a couple of years back – Pompey have retained their following.

Even in the darkest days they could muster 10,000 for a Cup-tie, and now the jolly Jack Tars who swell the Fratton Park ground whenever they're in town, are rolling up in their thousands again.

It's good to see a stadium which can hold 46,000 housing an average of 12,000 every other Saturday, and for the really big occasions Portsmouth could well be attracting over 25,000 again.

Even Keel

The tide has certainly turned down at Portsmouth, and nobody could be more delighted than manager Jimmy Dickinson (above) who has lived through gale force winds and tempests before getting the ship on an even keel again.

In his playing days Jimmy was every man's idea of the cultured wing-half. He played 764 times for the club in League matches alone – a record – spanning 20 seasons. He represented his country 48 times, and he won Football League Championship medals in successive seasons 1949 and 1950.

Yet two years ago when he was secretary Jimmy was close to despair. There was no money in the kitty, the club had slumped to near bottom of the Third Division. The end was near.

But then last April, Dickinson became manager – "not because I wanted to, but because I felt it was my duty to do as much for the club as I possibly could."

Now Portsmouth are on the way back up and the staff has undergone a radical change.



"If we'd have had this present team last season I don't think we'd have gone down," says Dickinson.

"We sold our leading scorer David Kemp to Carlisle for £80,000 and naturally that didn't go down too well especially as David was a very popular player with the supporters.

"But with the money we bought two more strikers Colin Garwood from Colchester and Steve Davey from Hereford as well as Steve Piper from Brighton. And it's worked out quite well."

Also into the side have come goalkeeper Peter Mellor from Hereford, who played for Fulham in the 1975 Cup Final, John Lathan from Carlisle United, and Jeff Hemmerman from Port Vale.

Hemmerman's story is an unusual one. He was with the Potteries club only one season after being released by Hull City, and on being given a free transfer at the end of last season again, was thinking of quitting the League.

Portsmouth offered him one last chance, and so well has he grabbed it that he is one of the Division's top scorers, and Kemp and scarcely been missed.

His story is perhaps symptomatic of what is happening to the club today. After some terrible times they are now beginning to smile again down on the South Coast, and the fans are now believing that Pompey are on the crest of a wave again.

IAN
WALLACE
Coventry

SOCCER



Above: Crystal Palace 'keeper John Burridge indulges in some amusing acrobatics as warm-up exercises before games. Top right: A "face" in the Millwall crowd. Right: Unusual pre-match entertainment at Bristol City. Below: Gary Shelton and Gordon Cowans hoping to carve themselves a slice of Aston Villa history.



Football is a serious game . . . ask any of the players or managers currently involved in fighting for the Championship, the F.A. Cup, a promotion place or struggling against relegation. But it also has its lighter moments as we prove here in . . .

PANORAMA



The Day Stan Bowles Silenced The Kop! During Q.P.R.'s match at Liverpool this season, their defender Ian Gillard was injured and needed treatment. Kop fans roared their disapproval . . . they wanted the game to go on. But Stan appealed for them to be quiet – and surprisingly got his way.

Above: Full-blown action with Coventry's Jim Holton trying to stop Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish (centre) and Terry McDermott. Right: Football's faceless ones play all their matches at home. Why? Because they are inmates of Acklington Prison, Northumberland. Called "The Gents" they have been voted "the most sporting team" in Division Three of the Morpeth Sunday League.

continued overleaf





Above: In Demand . . . that was Brian Talbot shortly after his £450,000 transfer from Ipswich.

Left: Everton's manager Gordon Lee celebrates after his side had beaten Liverpool 1-0 at Goodison last October.

Right: In the dog house. Still, what can you expect after sneaking into a Tottenham/Arsenal derby. Below: Goalkeepers are used to being under fire . . . but not from smoke bombs. Bolton's Jim McDonagh waits for clearer skies.





"Sorry, ref, but I've got pins and needles in my foot"



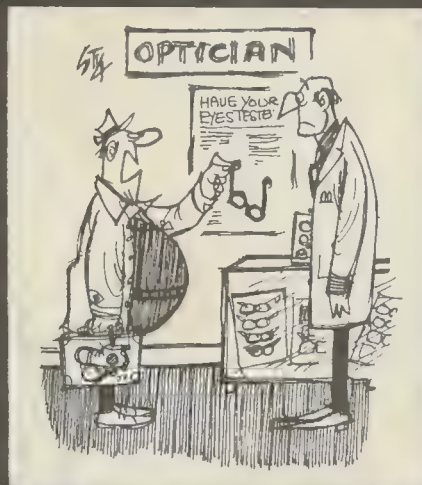
"Oh, I do like your new boots"



REF RIB-TICKLERS



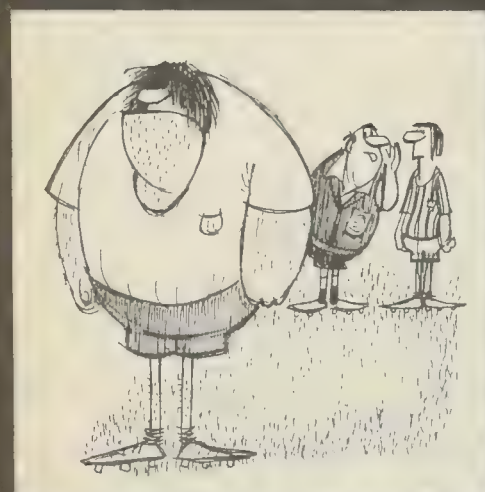
"I'd like you to take this ball down to the station and have it tested for fingerprints"



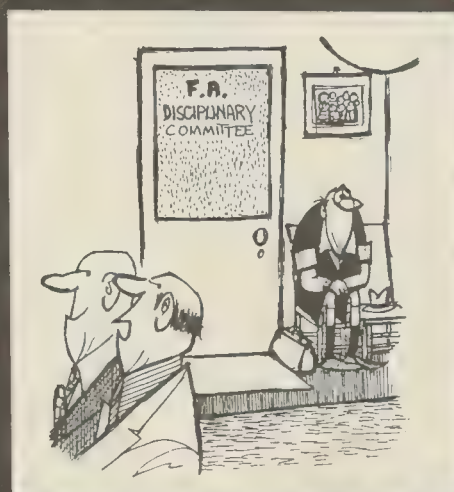
"These new glasses didn't help much ... I couldn't even find the ground"



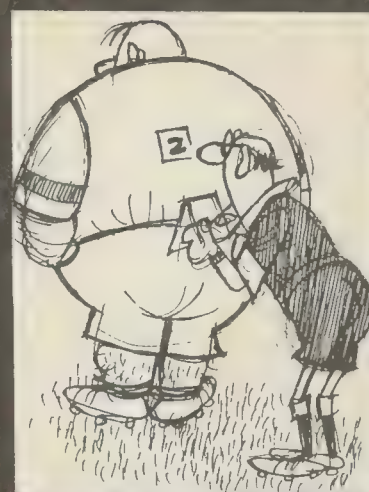
"I hope my little lecture isn't boring you, Jones"



"Do me a favour ... give him a kick so I can send him off when he retaliates"



"Argued with a player ... they'll probably take his whistle away"



Brighton will push on in the summer with improvements to their Goldstone Ground that will almost double the seating capacity.

They plan an extension of their main stand that will make it a double decker and extend it the complete length of the pitch.

The South stand will have increased seating and the one open side of the ground will have a roof put over it, providing added comfort for the terrace patrons.

Some might claim these moves are long overdue – for Brighton have not exactly had the best facilities in the country.

But the booming South Coast club make no apologies for not doing the work until now. Their priorities have lay in other directions – like putting a good team together.

"We feel we have put the horse before the cart – not the other way round," claims Brighton boss Alan Mullery – who has led the club through three years of

things continue that way.

"No one is sitting back and congratulating themselves on a job well done. As far as everyone connected with the club is concerned the job is only just beginning.

"To sit back and be satisfied with the set-up is to invite trouble. We are constantly striving to make the club better and better.

"The Board – led by chairman Mike Bamber – are all progressive men and they won't allow the club to stand still.

"Mike showed his intentions when he became chairman by getting Brian Clough and Peter Taylor down here to manage the club.

"Capturing names like these was a sensational coup for a club like Brighton – who, at the time, had never been associated with men of this calibre.

"The arrival of Clough and Taylor put Brighton firmly on the map. It aroused tremendous interest throughout the game



Alan Mullery (centre) has led the club through three years of success.

Manager Alan Mullery is aiming for a BIGGER BOOM AT BRIGHTON

success.

"We did not see the point of having a magnificent stadium if you did not have a team worth watching.

"So all the efforts down here over the past few years – including the year or so before I arrived – have been geared to signing good players and putting a real team together.

"Our results and performances prove we have done that. Now we can get on with the business of improving facilities for spectators.

"Once the work is done we'll have around 9,000 seats – and they are badly needed here.

"For at the moment we have only 4,700. These are all taken by season-ticket holders and there is not a seat for sale on match days.

"Revenue from those seats is around £150,000. When we get the rest in that will shoot up to some £300,000 – and that's a nice little nest egg to get in before a season starts.

"Things have gone well here in the past three or four years. They are getting better all the time – and we intend to make sure



and I always looked for their results from then on.

"It's a far cry from the days when a previous manager, Pat Saward, had to practically beg for money to provide the funds to buy players.

"He was more or less reduced to carrying a bucket along the seafont and sweating blood to raise relatively modest sums to get fresh faces in.

"That could not happen now. I've spent half-a-million quid on reshaping the side to meet the challenge presented by a higher grade of football. And there will be more available if I need to spend again.

"At the moment I'm very happy with the squad I've got – and I'm offering new contracts to prove it.

"In fact two players – Peter Ward and Mark Lawrenson – have been offered contracts for TEN years and that will make them secure for the rest of their lives.

"But if I need to act to strengthen – to go for someone

Mark Lawrenson – offered a contract that ensures his security for the rest of his career.

who can improve the staff even further – I will not hesitate to do it.

"I learned a long time ago that you cannot afford to stand still – and Tottenham boss Bill Nicholson was my mentor.

"During my days as a player at White Hart Lane Spurs won trophies galore. But that never stopped Bill Nick from going out and buying big in his constant search for perfection.

"And Clough and Taylor emphasised the importance of that a few weeks ago, when they spent a staggering million pounds to add Trevor Francis to a squad who had already won the League Championship and seemed strong enough to dominate British football for along time to come.

"That's the way you have got to think if you are to make an impression in the game.

"A lot of hard work has gone into making Brighton a club to be respected. We don't intend to waste it all by sitting back complacently now."

Mullery was always a winner in a distinguished playing career with Tottenham, Fulham and England.

He readily admits to being the world's worst loser. Failure is not a thing he has ever been associated with . . . nor ever intends to be.

And that can only be great news for Brighton fans – who seem set to enjoy an even bigger boom in the future.

HOW LIFE HAS CHANGED FOR ALAN KENNEDY

When Alan Kennedy left Newcastle United for a transfer fee of £300,000 earlier this season, the full-back had to make many adjustments, not only on the football pitch but also to his personal life and social activities.

"My life has changed completely," says Kennedy. "For instance, I am invited to many functions but I have to turn them down because being involved with a successful club means more demands are made on me by them. Mind you, I'm not complaining."

When he is not chasing honours with the Anfield club, does Alan find any way of relaxing?

"I don't get much free time, but when I do, I love to have a round of golf," says the Sunderland-born Kennedy. "I used to have much more time on my hands when I was at Newcastle but it's different now."

"At St. James' Park, I played a lot with Irving Natrass and I managed to get myself down to a 15 handicap, which is about average."

"During the Summer, I played nearly every day. I used to go for golfing holidays in Scotland and Lincolnshire."

"To walk round a golf course is one of the best possible relaxations. One can forget the strains of professional football with no difficulty."

How does Alan rate with his team-mates at Liverpool on a golf course?

"Nobody can get close to fellow defender Alan Hansen. He is a natural at any sport."

"He plays golf off a one or two handicap and he's represented Scotland at golf, squash, volleyball and football. He is what I'd call an all-rounder."

"Mind you, it's not just golf that I play. I also enjoy tennis and table tennis. In fact any ball game."

"I am glad I chose football because that is the only game I feel completely at home with."

Sportswriters and alike say Liverpool must be a great club to be associated with. As Kennedy nears the end of his



Alan Hansen has represented Scotland at golf, squash, volley-ball and football.

first full season with the Anfield side, has it been as he expected?

"Better than I had dreamed," says Kennedy. "The whole set-up is geared to success. It's expected of us."

"I was a little apprehensive about the famous Kop but they have been marvellous and taken to me."

"The biggest disappointment to everyone connected with the club was our European Cup First Round defeat by Nottingham Forest."

Outsmarted

"We were all very confident of going all the way and emulating the likes of Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and Ajax."

"Mind you, give Brian Clough's Forest their due, they outsmarted us in nearly every department and over the two legs deserved their success."

"But things have gone extremely well for Liverpool in the First Division Championship stakes and I am confident I will pick up my first title medal."

If Liverpool continue to be successful, then Alan Kennedy will have to forget his hobbies until well into the Summer. "I won't mind at all," concludes the likeable Anfield full-back.

That Crystal Palace will possibly keep London's number of clubs in the First Division at four at the expense of Chelsea makes Allan Harris happy – and sad. Not only is the Palace first-team coach an ex-Chelsea player, but brother Ron is still very much part of the Stamford Bridge scene.

Allan says: "I have a lot of happy memories from my time with Chelsea. They were the best club I played for and I can draw many comparisons between Chelsea and Palace."

Harris and manager Terry Venables were together in the Chelsea team built by Tommy Docherty. This Spring, Allan celebrates three years at Selhurst Park where he has helped the Palace youth side to form the basis of the current first-team.

He says: "I joined the club as manager of the youngsters and we won the Youth Cup. Many of the boys went up into the reserves and I took charge of that team. Now, the nucleus are together in the senior side and I work as first-team coach. I've come up with them."

"Fifteen years ago with Chelsea we won the Youth Cup twice in succession; now Palace have done the same."

"That Chelsea side was a very good one. The main difference between the present Palace team and the Chelsea side Terry



Allan (left) with his boss Terry Venables. Kenny Sansom (below), one of Palace's fine youngsters.

WHY ALLAN HARRIS IS HAPPY-AND SAD

and I played in is Chelsea had better strikers... more goal-power. Barry Bridges and Bobby Tambling were regular scorers.

"Mind you, this Palace team can score from all positions, so in some ways it's more dangerous."

"We learnt a lot from our Chelsea days. Tommy Docherty was too impatient and broke up the side before it had realised its potential. Terry and myself decided that whatever happened this season we'd stand by the kids, but they've done us proud."

"When we came back from pre-season training in Sweden I looked at our lads and although most of them were so young, they were bursting with confidence. I knew we'd be there or thereabouts."

The average age of the Palace side is around 21 or 22. Venables has added the experience of Steve Kember and

Tony Hazell to the squad.

"I know people say we need an Alan Ball-type character, a bit more experience, but our team's strength is its mobility. We don't want a player to slow the game down."

"Anyway, we have experience, if not age. Players such as John Burridge, Dave Swindlehurst and Jim Cannon have quite a few League games to their credit."

While Harris is confident about promotion, he certainly isn't over-confident.

"I remember the big freeze of 1963 when Chelsea were about eight points clear and 'certs' When we resumed we lost five matches in succession and eventually just pipped Sunderland on goal-average."

"We're looking for consistency, picking up a point when we don't play well."

"Naturally, if we *do* go up we'll be looking to add to the



squad. Because our side is so young, no one needs replacing because of his age."

Harris is enjoying the full-time involvement of soccer.

"After I'd finished with Cambridge I went into the hotel business for six months. Then Palace asked me to help with their youth team."

In just about the most competitive area for young talent, Palace seem to have led the way in London during the Seventies.

Harris continues: "First and foremost we look for skill in a player, regardless of his size."

"We don't subject players to things like weight-training because teenagers develop naturally anyway. Also, we've never been too worried about results in the South East Counties League. Our aim was only to produce players for the first-team. Really, winning the Youth Cup was a bonus."

"Then, we've had a calculated gamble that's paid off. We have deliberately played players out of position to give them experience. Peter Nicholas started as a sweeper, then we moved him to centre-half and now he's a tremendous midfielder."

The current Palace youth side, under John Cartwright (who does a similar job in Ron Greenwood's England set-up) is carrying on where the previous team left off.

BIG SHOT MIKE FLANAGAN AIMING FOR THE TOP



A leading goalscorer for Charlton . . . an England B international . . . a huge success in America with New England Tea Men during the summer of 1978 . . . worth almost £1 million pounds on today's current transfer values . . . life is certainly looking good for Mike Flanagan.

A first class target-man, good in the air and with the ability to go past defenders, Mike has the necessary talent to go right to the top in football.

Above: Mike tries another "big shot" for size . . . a 200-year-old cannon in Greenwich Park. Right: A super car for a super striker. The 120 mph Toyota Celica GT was Mike's prize for being voted America's "Most Valuable Player of the Year" in 1978.



BARGAIN BUYS *from* IRELAND

Irish eyes are smiling, and, to be sure, there's all the reason in the world why they should be.

It so happens, you see, that Ould Oireland has become, Soccerwise, more of a potent and fruitful source than, probably, ever before.

We're not talking about any successes in international matches achieved by either the Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland teams, but about the extent to which so many of the clubs over there, both North and South, are becoming more or less universal providers of players to English clubs.

From time immemorial, to coin a phrase, until the last year or two it's been to Scotland that clubs here have turned on their recruiting quests, but now the "balance of power" in that respect has switched to across the Irish Sea.

Football League clubs are finding that quality players over there don't as a general course of matters, cost as much as those in

Scotland, and, almost without the trend having been generally noted by the observers of Soccer prices, the exodus of footballers from Ireland to England has become more widespread than at any other period in the game's history.

To take a close look at all the movements from that side to this since last season's start is to feel that the sale of Soccer players almost promises to become one of the chief and most profitable of Irish exports!

Let's begin with the moves from Northern Ireland. Linfield sold Billy Hamilton to Queens Park Rangers for £40,000 and Terry Hayes to Luton Town (£15,000), while £20,000 enabled Burnley to take both Steve McAdam and Jim Gardiner from Portadown.

Colin McCurdy left Larne for Fulham (£25,000), Jim Harvey moved from Glenavon to Arsenal (£20,000), and Tom Connell from Coleraine to Manchester United (£15,000).

But the most active English club fishing in Ulster waters has been Derby County, who negotiated the most expensive Anglo-Irish transaction of all time in a package deal that cost them £90,000 when they brought over Billy Caskey and Vic Moreland from Glentoran. Then they followed by handing Cliftonville a £40,000 fee for Barney Bowers.

Dundalk Trio

As for transfers from clubs in the Republic one of the most outstanding of all time was the wholesale affair last April when an inclusive £55,000 outlay enabled Liverpool to recruit a trio from Dundalk - Synan Braddish, Derek Carroll, and Brian Duffy.

Then there was Queens Park Rangers' £15,000 signing of Paul McGee from Sligo Rovers and Patrick Healy's £9,000 move from Finn Harps to Port Vale among other deals to prompt the question: How many more arrivals from Erin's Isle are imminent?

Note the relatively modest cost of all those signings and contrast and compare them with all the SIX-figure deals English clubs have made North of the Tweed.

How do the Scottish clubs feel about all this? Do they view it as a case of those in Ireland having stolen their thunder and taken over their ancient and exclusive role of providers of players to England?

Meanwhile it doesn't call for a particularly vivid imagination to feel that we may be approaching the day when there will scarcely be a boat leaving either Belfast or Dublin for this side of the Irish Sea without having on board a player or two coming over to sample our Soccer.

JOHN SHAW *Bristol City*



Q.P.R. - Paul McGee
£15,000 buy from Sligo
Rovers.



Holland is just ripe for more English pickings. This is the view of a man who has spent his managerial career in Holland, the former West Brom player Barry Hughes.

Hughes is in charge of Dutch First Division Club Haarlem, and he was speaking amid reports that several top English managers were casting hopeful eyes to Holland in their search for other players, following the signing of Arnold Muhren and Franz Thijssen by Ipswich.

Arsenal manager Terry Neill has been interested for some time in the Van der Kerkhof twins and Ruud Krol and West Bromwich Albion boss Ron Atkinson has also carried out one spying mission into Holland.

Should they act, their chances of taking players from Holland are much brighter than perhaps any other European nation.

Holland have fans throughout the world after their performances in reaching two World Cup Finals - but behind those performances comes the fact that Dutch football is not as healthy, financially, as we might believe.

He said: "League attendances in Holland are going down and the top sides in Holland do not have the money to buy new players, even from within their own country.

"Holland has the players but no money, English managers have the money but not the players and I can see in the not

ENGLAND COULD BE READY TO GO DUTCH



Holland star Arnold Muhren (top, right) in action for Ipswich Town.

Haarlem boss Barry Hughes (above).

too distant future many more of Holland's players going over to England to play."

He added: "The transfer market has stopped and recently, Ajax went to Iceland to buy a left-winger because they could not afford a similar type of player in Holland."

But he did have a word of warning for English managers who might think all they have to do is wave a cheque book.

"The wage structure is very different. An average player in Holland will receive more money than some of the top players in England. The top stars in Holland can earn anything in the region of £25,000 to £30,000 a year and this does not include bonuses.

"Haarlem won promotion last season and our average wage is

between £8,000 and £9,000 a year and they receive about £100 win bonus. This does not take in account signing on fees."

Spurs began the trend by signing Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa, Birmingham have Alberto Tarantini and Manchester City Poland's Kazimierz Deyna. But Hughes said: "I would always go for a Dutch player before an Argentinian or Pole."

He explained: "Nearly everything is identical to England. The weather, and the conditions are virtually the same and nearly all the Dutch boys can speak English which present no language barrier. We also eat the same type of foods.

"But the distance is probably the over-riding factor. It takes an hour to fly from England to Holland and should a player feel homesick at any time or his family is still living in Holland, he can spend a good deal of time with them."

Forced to Sell

Hughes revealed: "Several English managers have been coming out to Holland for some time, looking at teams and to have a general assessment of the standard in Holland."

Hughes' comments are explained by one of the teams Atkinson has been watching this season.

Twente are a team from a small provincial town, their ground has a capacity of about 20,000 and in recent years they have been forced to sell their best players to balance their books.

Rene and Willie Van der Kerkhof, the Dutch World Cup twins, shot to prominence with Twente and they sold Arnold Muhren and Franz Thijssen to

Ipswich for a combined fee of £400,000.

In England, this amount is now commonplace, for one average player once again highlighting Hughes' views.

At the moment, Twente have another hot property, Pete Wildschut who emerged as one of the best strikers during the 1978 World Cup.

If English managers are beginning to go Dutch then you can bet Spain and Italy have also been casting their eyes in this direction.

Ruud Krol, Jan Peters, the Van der Kerkhofs - all have been admired by Englishmen from afar.

The day could be dawning when we can see them at first hand, playing against their countrymen in our First Division.

Prior to the 1966 World Cup Finals in England, Sir Alf Ramsey, manager at the time, stated that Martin Peters was ten years ahead of his time. Today, the likeable East Londoner is still going strong in the First Division with Norwich City. And according to his present boss, John Bond, he is still turning it on and making The Canaries tick. He is also regularly on the mark for the East Anglia side as they consolidate their position with England's elite.

Martin (second left) missed the 1964 F.A. Cup Final when West Ham beat Preston 3-2, but a year later he was at Wembley and helped The Hammers beat TSV Munich 2-0 in the European Cup-Winners' Cup Final.

MARTIN PETERS THIS IS YOUR LIFE

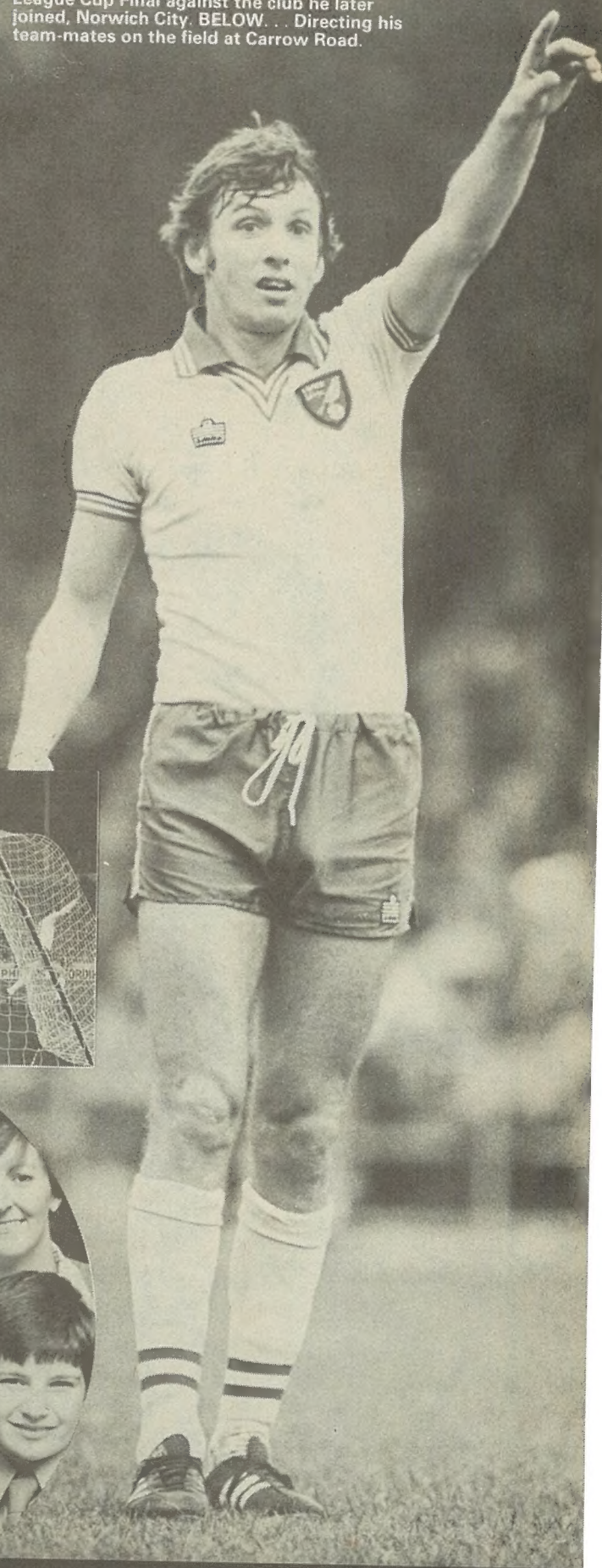


The West Ham trio that helped England to glory Bobby Moore (left), Geoff Hurst and Peters.





LEFT... A proud moment for Martin was when he skippered Spurs to success in the 1973 League Cup Final against the club he later joined, Norwich City. BELOW... Directing his team-mates on the field at Carrow Road.



LEFT... On the mark for England v. West Germany in the 1966 World Cup Final. RIGHT... Martin has been nicknamed 'The Ghost', for his ability to glide in unnoticed and catch defenders unawares. He scored from such a position for England v. Scotland in 1973. The only goal of the game. BELOW, RIGHT... Martin relaxes at home with his lovely wife Kathy and children Lee-Ann and Grant.



Ask Welsh referee Clive Thomas any question on the Laws of the Game and he'll answer you without hesitation. But ask the 41-year-old official his most memorable game and you'll have him stumped.

At least, he was when I posed this question. Thomas, who is featured in 'You Are The Ref' in SHOOT each week, thought hard and long before replying.

"You may find this hard to believe, but I have never kept any records of my career. I couldn't tell you how many internationals or European Cup-ties I've refereed.

"With me, once a game is over, I forget about it and look to the next one. I may be told that I'm going to officiate in, say, Stuttgart and my wife will say: 'You were there two years ago,' and I'll have forgotten.

"It only occurred to me the other week that I've been a referee for 25 years. I don't think many people realise that.

"I can't say I have a most memorable game, but one match I

can't forget – and you'll see there is a difference – is the one between Manchester City and Manchester United on ironically March 13th, 1974 at Maine Road.

"I sent-off Mike Doyle and Lou Macari for fighting but both players refused to leave the field. They weren't abusive, they just said: 'Oh come on, let's get on with the game.'

"I was forced to pick up the ball and take all the players and my linesmen back to the dressing-rooms. There were no red cards in those days so nobody knew what was going on. Looking back, I'm amazed that everyone went off and although a message was put out over the tannoy, I'm surprised there was no pitch invasion.

"The players had taken away my authority by deliberately ignoring me. The referee *must* always be the man in charge and at that moment I wasn't, so I had no alternative other than to take everyone off.

"The match was restarted six or



Clive Thomas calls players off at Maine Road after halting the all Manchester clash in 1974.

seven minutes later, without Doyle and Macari. I'd do the same tomorrow if I had to."

In fact Thomas, a promotions executive for the OCS Group of Companies, almost DID have to do the same thing during the 1976 European Championship Finals.

During Holland/Czechoslovakia Dutch midfielder Wim van Hanegem refused to go off.

"I walked to the touch-line and he eventually came. Had he not, I'd have taken everyone off and refused to start the game until van

Hanegem had left. Three players were sent off in that game and six booked. It's unfortunate that these are two games I can't forget, although I would hardly call them memorable."

Thomas disagrees with those who feel people only remember refs for controversial matches.

"Fans do appreciate the good things refs do. I was at the England/Northern Ireland at Wembley and two Sheffield Wednesday fans came up to me. They just wanted to shake my hand and thank me for the way I'd refereed their F.A. Cup-ties against Arsenal. If someone had given me a hundred pounds I couldn't have felt happier."

Nevertheless, Thomas *has* been involved in some talked-about games, notably the Brazil/Sweden World Cup-tie in Argentina when he disallowed Zico's last-gasp winner as he'd blown for time just before the ball entered the Sweden net.

THE GAMES CLIVE THOMAS CAN'T FORGET



Off the field, Clive is a promotions executive for an office cleaning company.

Brazil thought they had won against Sweden in their 1978 World Cup-tie, but Clive had blown for full-time.

"I'll never be allowed to forget that game. My plane stopped in Rio de Janeiro for two hours on the way back from Argentina and I stayed aboard!

"I believe what I did was honest and correct. The 90 minutes was up BEFORE the goal was scored. One of my so-called colleagues went on TV and said I was wrong.

"I'm not a diplomatic referee and I never shall be. I'm an honest one and I'll never play over 90 minutes, not even a few seconds to see if a goal can be scored or the ball cleared. I play to the Laws and the Laws state 90 minutes.

"I was aware of what I'd done but my conscience was clear."

What Thomas had done, in fact, was to ruin any chance of refereeing another game in Argentina. The president of FIFA is a Brazilian, so Clive's action was, as he said, hardly diplomatic.

"I'd like to know the opinions of the other 31 World Cup refs on my decision. Suffice to say I left Argentina with my head held high knowing what I'd done was right.

"Of course I was disappointed I didn't referee another tie. I went out there, like every other ref, hoping to get the Final. But I live by my principles.

"I had to do exactly the same in Bulgaria earlier this season. Kempes was playing for Valencia and took a corner. The 90 minutes was up as the ball came over, but I still blew for time."

Thomas began refereeing as a teenager after one year with Norwich City.

"An ankle injury put an end to my career as a footballer and I became involved in local boys' clubs football. One day I went to see the Treorchy Boys Under-16's play. They already had a referee,

so I ran the line with a hankie as a flag.

"Afterwards, the referee told me I'd done well, and suggested I took up refereeing. I joined the Referees' Association, learnt the Laws of the Game and applied to join the South Wales F.A.

"They allowed me to officiate, but wouldn't give me my 'ticket' as I wasn't 18.

"My very first game was between Blaengwynfi and Treherbert boys' clubs. I'll never forget it.

"It was played on top of a mountain and every time the ball was kicked downhill the player concerned had to go and get it. I was forever stopping my watch and, in all, the game lasted an hour and a half!"

At 21, Thomas joined the Army and was a Class B referee. He tried for promotion but Captain Allen, who became Chairman of the Referees' Association later, told Corporal Thomas he simply wasn't good enough.

"Although he was a Captain, I said to him: 'You'll regret that decision' and in fairness to him, when I made the Football League list at 27 he was amongst the first to congratulate me."

Now, 14 years later, Thomas says he enjoys football more than ever.

"I like to think I have a better communication with the players. They smile when they talk to me rather than stand to attention. Perhaps I was falling down on man-management before.

"Then, I'd let an offence occur and take action. These days, if I see player A is going to 'get' player B, I'll try and prevent the situation. Prevention is always better than cure."

CHRIS DAVIES

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